

**Gage County EMS Advisory Committee
Beatrice Community Hospital
Beatrice, NE**

**April 10, 2008
Meeting Summary**

Present:

Rex Adams
Dennis Byars
Alan Fetty
Jane Ford-Witthoff
Dawn Hill
Ron Miller
Larry Stanosheck
Don Harmon
Gary William
Brian Daake
Mark Meints

Absent:

Dee Fritch

Guest:

Greg Hall – Lancaster County EMS work group

Staff:

Dean Cole
Robyn Henderson

Call Meeting to Order

Chair called the meeting to order

Approve Agenda and Minutes

Minutes from the March 13, 2008, meeting were approved. Agenda for April 10, 2008 was approved

Lancaster County EMS Work Group Report

Greg Hall, Chair of the Lancaster County rural EMS workgroup, discussed the activities taking place in Lancaster County. A workgroup with representatives from each of the 17 departments in county formed last November to discuss alternatives to Lincoln Fire and Rescue (LFR). LFR currently provides rural EMS services. At a recent mutual aid meeting, rural districts felt that they were being pushed into renewing the agreement with LFR. The workgroup developed an RFP for services; three groups responded. The northern part of the county is covered well with BLS; southeast part of the county, however, does not have transport capability but does have first responders. The workgroup would like to put ALS in other parts of the county. The Lancaster County Board will have final authorization over solution. The workgroup has until June 1 to make decision; Current LFR contract (\$60,000) will end on August 31.

Ron Miller will be liaison to Lancaster County group. Jane Ford Witthoff will back-up. Rex Adams will try to attend as well to listen and learn.

Priorities: What are components of an ideal Gage County EMS system?

- ALS availability at all times (not dispatched to each call, but available)
- County-wide purchasing to help standardize equipment for ambulances
- Central Billing System
- Efficiency of staffing, transfers, response time, number of departments
- One medical director for everybody
- Centralized training for all EMS
- Public input
- Entity to ensure accountability
- EMS Dispatch program that trains folks to triage all calls to help better direct resources.
- “Frequent flyers” – many of these folks should be in care facility. Specialized Dispatch could help identify these calls and refer them to health departments, which can help evaluate folks.
- eNARSIS can help track calls (all in Gage County are on eNarsis except Adams)

Need to determine what we already have:

For example, Claytonia and Adams are separate from Fire; therefore they have no access to funding other than fundraisers.

The issues listed above were categorized into three main areas: Fiscal, Structure, Quality

Don – float among all groups

Fiscal (funding, economy of scale-Centralization of process). Mark Meints and Rex Adams will send a letter to each district requesting budget and other needed information.

- County budget for EMS--What are they paying to each district \$.03 previously going to rural departments will be used for jail/courthouse renovation
- Revenue generation
- Other financing sources
- Ambulance district – Dawn Hill conduit to County Attorney
 - in or outside levy limits
 - Ramification for county
 - keep/lose rural fire dollars?
 - Rex contacted NACOne about trends
 - Limits/range of authority – townships, municipality, rural fire districts

Subcommittee:

Alan Fetty - chair
Rex Allen
Jane Ford-Witthoff
Dan Hawkins

Structure (communication, county-wide system, standardization). Need to get a copy of generic inter-local agreement.

- Inter-local agreements
- Volume of calls
- Authority
- Data on equipment/personal
- Demographics of area
- Communications
- Interstate issues (Kansas)
- ALS chase car
- Mutual aid agreements
- Identify out-of-county units used, i.e., Hallam, Diller, Dewitt, Firth, and ways to help with payments – create inter-local agreements/contract for set dollar amount
- Use of Volunteers (disappearing trend)

Subcommittee:

Brian Daake - Chair
Ron Miller
Dennis Byars
Dee Fritch

Quality (medical director, patient care, coordination of training)

- Physician Medical Director
- Job description
- Training
- Resources available to call upon (on the scene, star care, hazmat, etc.)
- Mission statement on quality
- Goals

Subcommittee:

Gary Williams - chair

Larry Stanosheck

Mark Meints

TIMELINE

April 10 (today)

May 21 - Don present update for Board of Supervisors Meeting

Email minutes to all Board Members via Dawn

Next Meeting – May 8

Where we are right now – overview of current status (fiscal, quality, etc)

Needed info/data

What are we paying for EMS – get info - frame request in terms of “helping them get more funding”

Agenda items for next meeting:

County attorney – Ambulance district, authority among entities,

Committee reports - review of current status, info/data needs