

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

**July 30, 2009
8:00 a.m.**

Minutes

Present:

Don Harmon
Rex Adams
Brian Daake
Jane Witthoff
Larry Stanosheck
Matt Bauman
Mark Meints
Ron Miller
Dan Hawkins
Diana Durfee

Absent:

Dawn Hill
Dennis Byars
Dee Fritch
Alan Fetty

Admin. Support:

Robyn Henderson
Dean Cole
Richard Mettler

Guests:

Call Meeting to Order

Don Harmon called the meeting to order and asked members to introduce themselves.

Approve Minutes

Motion made and seconded to accept July 30 agenda and minutes of June 12, 2009, meeting; motion approved.

County Board of Supervisors Report

The County Board is meeting in two weeks; at that time it will dissolve the current advisory committee and appoint another smaller committee for “nuts and bolts,” such as group purchasing, and other issues. Matt stated that this would be last meeting of this Committee, and commended the group on all of the work it has done, such as looking at inter-local agreements versus joint public agency, taxing authority, medical director, and quality of care issues.

A new Gage County Emergency Advisory Committee has been named—Don Harmon and Don Rice will serve as co-chairs, and members include the rescue chiefs of Beatrice, Wymore, Claytonia, and Adams departments. They anticipate there will be a need for continued input from Hospital and others on as needed basis. Matt would like to have the first meeting of this new group in August. Dr. Rice’s contract will be extended for one more year.

Matt also announced that the current year contracts with departments will probably be one year to allow for changes developed by the new committee during the next year. After that, contracts may be multi-year contracts. Old contracts that should have expired in July will be extended for 90 days to allow for necessary actions by County Board.

Concerns that were noted: Diana noted that relations with EMS are getting better; however one point of concern is the communications disconnect when a patient comes in. Diana said it would

really helpful to have eNARIS report when the patient gets to hospital. Remember that the ER is a part of the EMS System and should be a part decisions that affect clinical issues. Others reinforced the need to ensure that the ambulance chief (EMT certified) is the one at the table – not fire chief. Danny asked if the department could see the contract before it goes to the County Board to determine if any changes need to be made.

Summary Report

Discussion with Richard: What are main ideas that need to be included in final report?

Accomplishments:

- PMD and work done so far
- Communications between BCH and units and process in place to ensure that is ongoing.
- Progress in Quality Assurance – but always evolving
- Development of certain quality standards and that they have been included with contracts
- Have identified “team players” (hospital, public health) but roles and responsibilities are yet to be determined. Not making full use of their capabilities.
- Better accountability for patient care and financing.
- EMS is better recognized as important to the county
- Relationship with state have been strengthened, goes beyond just resources

Work to be done:

- Centralized billing
- Group purchasing
- Financing is yet to be clarified
- Relationship between city and county
- Address long term needs: aging population; aging EMS providers, younger folks not volunteering
- Commitment from County Board to continue work of the new committee (not sit on a shelf); clarification of roles and responsibilities (who is responsible for providing EMS services), which may lead to a possible opportunity for legislative change to define who has responsibility for providing EMS (no current mandate in state legislation)
- County recognizes the resources that are out there, including recognizing what everyone is doing. (takes lots of pancake feeds to pay for \$150,000 truck)

Next Steps:

Don thanked everyone and praised the work accomplished by the group since its inception. He thanked Dean for the generous state support and SE-AHEC for its administrative support. The group thanked Don for his leadership and moving work forward.

Dean noted that Saline County is looking at Gage County as a model. Currently, a mutual aid group is trying to work things out on their own. If this doesn't work, they will probably start with assessment process. The group has strong support from the hospital and others in the community.

Upcoming Opportunities:

Jane stated that Public Health Solutions (PHS) application for the AED grant and scored 92; they should know if they are funded in early August. Jane also noted that PHS will submit a rural network development grant for a program similar to the triage use of emergency rooms patterned

by the Lincoln program. PHS is also working towards a free health clinic which would operate in the “Clinic with a Heart” model.

Diana will be leaving BCH in October; the hospital would like to have her replacement start in September so there is an overlap for training, and so forth.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned.