

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE COUNCIL MINUTES

Sheboygan County Law Enforcement Center – Room 113
525 North 6th Street
Sheboygan, Wisconsin 53081

August 20, 2014

Called to Order: 6:05 PM

Adjourned: 7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

NAME:

Dr. Suzanne Martens
Gerry Isbell
Darrell Kasuboski
Craig Schicker
Carson Wilkinson
Allen Wrubbel
Chuck Butler
Blaine Werner
Steven Zils
Vernon Koch
Julia Nash
Robert Kulhanek
Jim Veaser
Denis Fellows
Tom Bahr
Steve Steinhardt
Joel Urmanski
Dan Hein

REPRESENTING:

Sheboygan County Medical Society
Private Ambulance Services
First Responders
Aurora Sheboygan Memorial Center
Industry
Village Government
Sheboygan Fire Department
Random Lake Fire Dept/Rescue Services
Sheboygan County Medical Society
County Board
Sheboygan County Sheriff's Department
Consumers Interested
Sheboygan Police Department
County Fire Chiefs
Member at Large
Emergency Government
County Bar Association
Town Government

MEMBERS ABSENT

NAME:

Darryl Carlson

REPRESENTING:

City Government

ALSO PRESENT

NAME:

Jane Krepsky
Nancy Des Jardins
Di Anna Du Puis

REPRESENTING:

Orange Cross Ambulance
Town of Wilson First Responders
Sheboygan County Sheriff's Department

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Martens called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and self-introductions by those in attendance took place.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all persons in attendance.

CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH WISCONSIN OPEN MEETING LAW

Suzanne Martens stated we are in compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law. It was posted Monday, August 18, 2014 at 12:00 p.m.

APPROVE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion by Carson Wilkinson and seconded by Tom Bahr, to approve the minutes from the May 21, 2014 meeting. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Suzanne has no correspondence and inquired if there was any other correspondence, and there was none.

OLD BUSINESS UPDATES

COMBINED DISPATCH UPDATE

Captain Julia Nash stated that the request for proposal for general contractor for the project is going out tomorrow. The posting for dispatch supervisor positions has been put up. Within the last two weeks both the Chief and Sheriff met with each of the city dispatchers and gave them letters notifying them of their stance in the selection process. We now have a better understanding where we are with personnel. Currently 22% of the staff is now cross-trained; this has come to a stand-still during the summer months with vacations. Cross-training will resume in the Fall. The county will be training 5 more of our personnel and the city will be training 2 more of their personnel with the goal being 100% of the staff cross-trained by the end of March 2015. All newly hired dispatchers are fully integrated with their training which includes training at the city and county. The total personnel count depends on the supervisory process and how many come from the in-house group and part depends on who will decide to stay. The total could be as many as eight people to hire.

An e-mail was sent by Sergeant DeBlaey today that the radio counsels at the city have been redesigned to mirror the radio counsels at the county with all the same icons. On Monday, 08-25-14, between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m., the roll-out of that configuration will be completed. An e-mail went out to the city fire department that this change will be taking place at the city. All city dispatchers will begin to use the new configuration on the radio counsels and consideration should be given for their learning this new configuration.

The RFP for construction of the new dispatch center will be going out and all are anticipating the start of this new construction.

Steve commented that for those who have EMS agencies, they should have received his e-mail regarding the Dispatcher job posting and to post this at their agency.

ROAD AMERICA SAFETY TEAM FIRST RESPONDER APPLICATION

This is still tabled. Carson stated that they are still waiting on information from outside agencies.

RADIO UPGRADE UPDATE AND TRAINING UPDATE

Julia commented that former Inspector Bruckbauer, the radio upgrade consultant, is going to Ozaukee County on September 28th to attend their Finance Committee Meeting in order to meet representatives and then report what is learned on their RFP.

Steve commented that our RFP is basically ready to be submitted. We are waiting on Ozaukee because if we can join with them, we're looking at a six to seven figure savings between the two counties. We would not participate with them if Ozaukee makes the decision to stay with their current provider and not go competitive. We are looking for a competitive bid.

At this time, Ozaukee is the only county we would participate with because Manitowoc County just upgraded, Fond du Lac County upgraded approximately two years ago and Washington County was also about two years ago. Ozaukee is the only county that will need to upgrade at the same time as Sheboygan County.

DISCUSS SPECIAL EVENTS AND COUNTY ORDINANCE

Suzanne inquired if there have been any updates regarding this outdated ordinance. She learned that the county has not done anything about registering the Tough Mudder event which is scheduled for September 6, 2014.

Steve advised that we are discussing the ordinance but cannot act on it as yet due to its place on tonight's agenda. At the next EMS Council meeting it will be on the agenda for a vote to be taken. This will initiate a recommendation to be made at the Law Committee to address this ordinance by restructuring and making it realistic to present-day expectations.

Steve stated that the counties he contacted do not have an ordinance in place, but apparently municipalities do have an ordinance in place for special events.

Suzanne stated that if no county has this ordinance maybe it isn't necessary for Sheboygan County.

Chuck commented on if there should be concern that this ordinance is not being followed, and that, potentially it was dissolved, how would it be guaranteed that events with thousands of attendees are prepared to have the necessary coverage for all emergencies.

Suzanne added that if an attendee would get injured where the event doesn't have proper coverage, event planners could bring up the outdated ordinance in their defense.

REVIEW EMS AGENCY ANNUAL REPORTS

Suzanne asked for an update on the review and taking action on modifying the EMS Plan regarding Ambulance Territory Boundaries.

Tom stated the Plans and Goals Committee has received a decision on territory boundaries. Orange Cross, Oostburg and Town of Lima agreed to make the boundary at Miley Road in the Town of Lima. He received the boundary map just prior to this meeting. The boundary map was then passed around for all members to review.

Suzanne inquired of Steve if a motion is needed to pass this boundary map. Steve replied that a motion to approve the map does not need to be taken if Plans and Goals will be reviewing it one last time, otherwise we can take direct action on it.

It was asked if the new Orange Cross Ambulance station will be completed by the January date. Gerry stated that the new Sheboygan Falls station anticipates a completion deadline of mid-October 2014 and therefore should be completed by 01-01-15. They are currently working out of Kohler until the renovation project is completed.

Tom stated that Plans and Goals Committee has met and decided this Ambulance Territory Boundary map with the Miley Road boundary is the right way to go. The new boundaries will go into effect on 01-01-15.

Motion by Darrell Kasuboski and seconded by Robert Kulhanek, to approve the Ambulance Territory Boundary Map. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSS INTEREST OF EXPANDING FIRST RESPONDER COVERAGE IN TOWN OF LIMA
Steve commented this applies somewhat to the ambulance boundary districts because of the internal publicity it was receiving in the Town of Lima of eventually changing. Individuals have contacted him asking if there was a first responder agency willing to take over portions of the Town of Lima. No specific sections were noted and the contact was not with a government official. Steve advised this topic should be added to the municipality's meeting agenda to see if there is interest to expand first responder coverage. Steve will re-contact the township and advise that he has received feedback from the community and it is now a topic the township will need to discuss.

EMS QUALITY ASSURANCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Suzanne reported that the EMS Quality Assurance Subcommittee did not officially meet and will be part of the EMS Association Meeting.

EMS LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Joel stated there is nothing new to report.

Suzanne commented on her e-mail to Joel regarding a question on the Narcan Bill. The state has been arguing about the Narcan Bill for approximately four months as to who may or shall be required to carry Narcan. EMT's are required to carry Narcan and first responders, law enforcement and firefighters may choose to carry supplies of Narcan.

Joel stated it is not official yet, but it sounds like Suzanne's understanding of the bill is what their legal counsel will be advising.

REPORT ON SHEBOYGAN COUNTY EMS ASSOCIATION MEETING OF AUGUST 2014

Suzanne commented there was a presentation on Highway Scene Traffic Safety and questions about the organization.

Suzanne presented, distributed to all in attendance and discussed a spreadsheet on the countywide use of Narcan for 2008 through 2013. She stated that the difficulty comes in because Narcan is not exclusively used for heroin and opiate overdoses. Also, the number of doses is not in direct proportion to the number of people, due to some people requiring more than one dose. She based the numbers on what was known about doses deployed and how many cases used for. A trend she noted is in the younger codes, if there isn't a reason for someone coding, Narcan is more likely to be given in order to see if the reason is drug or heroin overdose related. In the early statistics, 2008, the numbers for Orange Cross Ambulance are not complete because they were transitioning at that time and uploading data. Oostburg's medications don't transfer, but she is able to distinguish the use of Narcan, however, it is seldom used. (This Sheboygan EMS Narcan Administration spreadsheet has been scanned and saved.)

This leads to the question, is there an idea of what the expanded Narcan use will be in the county? Kohler is looking into this issue. Jim Veaser was asked if city law enforcement is looking into providing Narcan and his response was not at this time due to the duplication with EMT's and that it would be an unnecessary expense.

Suzanne commented on their being discussion on providing guidance for the best practices on how Narcan should be used. A couple physician statements have been released, however, she has not seen a training module for non-EMS personnel and does expect this to occur in the near future.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING WISCONSIN CURRICULUM ON ADVANCED EMT AND THE AFFECTS OF VOLUNTEER EMS SERVICES

Blaine commented this topic was brought up at the EMS Association meeting. He has talked to Ryan, Oostburg and others, and their concern is how many will start and pass the AEMT program which is approximately 280 hours, with curriculum similar to a paramedic. It covers multiple medications, physiology and other topics that are geared more toward a paramedic. It is becoming difficult for volunteers to go two nights a week and on a Saturday to be able to get through the curriculum.

Suzanne commented that there have only been three AEMT classes held so far and they have been surprisingly successful. In Dave's two classes combined, there have been only three people drop and Rick passed all nine of his students. She noted the pass rate has gone up. 2012, the first year, had an extremely low pass rate of 50% nationwide and Wisconsin's rate was at 30%. The pass rate doubled with concurrent attempts. In 2013, Wisconsin was at 62% and nationwide was 60%. The rate in 2014 was at 62% on the first time.

Blaine commented that volunteers are uninterested in taking the course with the current curriculum in the 1,100 page book being geared more toward paramedics. It takes dedication and time and the majority of volunteers have a family making it extremely difficult to allot time for this.

Suzanne stated the impetus for the current curriculum stems from when they changed the curriculum previously and went away from the Intermediate level to the I-Tec program, which came across as being too watered-down. So the current book is a bridge back to the older curriculum. Advanced EMT (AEMT) is a separate certification, a lot of services are run on an EMT level due to not being able to get people to take the class. The definition of Advanced EMT will not change due to it being in alignment with the national standard curriculum which is being transitioned over the next two to four years. She does agree that certain sections in the current curriculum are more advanced than what an AEMT would need to learn.

Suzanne commented this concern was raised about two years ago with instructor's identifying the fact that the curriculum was "heavy" and they were missing information trying to pack three hours into two hours. With a couple years of data and feedback, she brought this up with Tim Weir at the Wisconsin County Technical College Association. Also, the State EMS Office is trying to pull some numbers in order to see how many problems they are having and what the complaints have been with the current curriculum.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Blaine stated he would like to thank the people on the County Board for the support received with the radio system.

ADJOURNMENT

Tom Bahr moved to adjourn. Seconded by Darrel Kasuboski. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

The next EMS Council meeting will be on November 19, 2014, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Steinhardt,
Recording Secretary