

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE COUNCIL MINUTES

Sheboygan County Administration Building – Room 302
508 New York Avenue
Sheboygan, Wisconsin 53081

August 19, 2015

Called to Order: 6:05 PM

Adjourned: 7:35 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

NAME:

Dr. Suzanne Martens
Steve Steinhardt
Tom Bahr
Denis Fellows
Darrel Kasuboski
Stephen Cobb
Vernon Koch
Joel Urmanski
Julia Nash
Blaine Werner
Bob Kuhlhanek
Steven Zils
Brian Goelzer

REPRESENTING:

Sheboygan County Medical Society
Emergency Government
Member at Large/St. Nicholas
County Fire Chiefs
First Responders
Sheboygan Police Department
County Board
County Bar Association
Sheboygan County Sheriff's Department
Random Lake Fire Dept/Rescue Services
Consumers Interested
Sheboygan County Medical Society
Private Ambulance Services

MEMBERS ABSENT

NAME:

Dan Hein
Allen Wrubbel
Carson Wilkinson
Chuck Butler
Craig Schicker
Darryl Carlson
Shalon Edson

REPRESENTING:

Town Government
Village Government
Industry
Sheboygan Fire Department
Aurora Sheboygan Memorial Center
City Government
St. Nicholas Hospital

ALSO PRESENT

NAME:

Russ Schreiner
DiAnna DuPuis

REPRESENTING:

Sheboygan County Communications
Sheboygan 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 in Room 302 at the Administration Building by all persons in attendance.

CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH WISCONSIN OPEN MEETING LAW

Steve Steinhardt stated we are in compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law. It was posted Monday, August 17, 2015 at 3:15 p.m.

APPROVE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion by Tom Bahr and Seconded by Darrel Kasuboski, to approve the minutes from the May 20, 2015 meeting. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Steve received an e-mail from Carson regarding the Road America First Responder Application stating it is not ready at this time and he will not be in attendance at the meeting tonight.

OLD BUSINESS UPDATES

COMBINED DISPATCH UPDATE

Steve reported that the consoles have arrived and are going into the new dispatch center as of today. There are a series of 10 monitors plus big screens with maps. A tour of the new dispatch center at the next meeting may work as it won't be up and running at that time, but it will be set up.

Julia commented the final supervisor position is the last to be filled and she will be coming on board in mid-October. She is coming from Outagamie County and has given them a four week notice. The other supervisors are Eric Zinkel, Brad Yurk, both from the county and Alicia Wimmer from the city. Sergeant DeBlaey has been working on the training schedule and the 2016 schedule.

RADIO UPGRADE UPDATE AND TRAINING UPDATE

Steve Cobb commented that the city and county dispatchers are still switching back and forth and everything has passed so that when January 1st or the 4th comes around, all will be Sheboygan County employees. The plan is to operate six days a week out of the City facility and one day a week out of the current Sheriff's dispatch center until the move into the new dispatch center. The wait is dependent on the tower studies, the radio system upgrade as well as the new radio equipment before the move can be made to the new dispatch center in Spring 2016.

Russ Schreiner commented that the core of the radio system, meaning the servers, will be installed off the equipment room in the new dispatch center, then installation of the radio consoles can be completed and connected to the core which can then be utilized for test talk groups and channels. It will look like a working system but can only be utilized to get the dispatchers acquainted with the new system.

Regarding the radio upgrade, Russ stated that the radios are here and George has been working on inventorying the radios, assigning serial numbers to agencies and starting the ID process. He also stated they have a conference call with the Motorola vendor every Tuesday to keep up to date on the progress.

Julia commented on the conference call on Tuesday regarding the radios, which was in regard to scheduling the soil boring for 67 the following week.

Steve stated that all the radio paperwork and agreements went out and are waiting now depending on how the agency is set up with either private or municipal, for the return of those forms. Billing will be in 2016 for those who are receiving bills.

Russ stated training was tasked to the Communication Ad Hoc Committee (represented by all major agencies) and they are now focusing on the development of the programming templates for the major agencies before they can discuss the topic of how training will be accomplished. The goal for radio training is for all to have it completed by the time the system goes live.

ROAD AMERICA SAFETY TEAM FIRST RESPONDER APPLICATION

This is covered previously under Correspondence.

NEW BUSINESS

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF RESCUE TASK FORCE

Steve spoke in regard to this being an on-going process. Terry Cram has been doing a lot of work from the Sheriff's Department on behalf of forming a Rescue Task Force. Subcommittees have been set up within the group to start looking at different areas, such as equipment, funding, policy protocol, etc. They are continuing to train periodically as a group and are incorporated into some of the SWAT practices. Eventually, this being an EMS function, Terry would like to see this taken over by EMS personnel.

Suzanne commented there are EMS members who are working on the functionalities of how it can be maintained. The training so far has consisted of two major parts, movement training with the SWAT Team and the Self-Aid Buddy-Aid training, sponsored by various first responder groups. She has encouraged members to participate in this training.

Darrel commented that Deputy Brent Multer held a Self-Aid Buddy-Aid training in Cascade recently with approximately 20 plus people, and they were very impressed with how it was implemented by Deputy Multer.

RADIO TEMPLATE DISCUSSION

Russ presented to the group a slide presentation regarding the Communication Ad Hoc Committee's work on developing standard templates for Fire and EMS. Law has been involved with starting to touch on some things that we would like to standardize with their agency, but the concentration at this point is with Fire and EMS agencies. The templates are similar to what is currently being used. There have been name changes to the talk group channels on the system. This is the third name change for the national mutual aid channels.

Zones are being used which similar to the current EMS zones. There is county fire primary and secondary, and EMS secondary, IFIRN is under that. They created an 800IFIRN talk group which is a stand-alone and easier to get to because it is right in the bank that you will normally be operating. Also created was an AirMed talk group for all the air ambulances with 800 MHz p25 capability. Under that was the regular EMS talk groups as in the past, then MABAS conventional channels, then city fire primary and secondary. The channels go up to 16, on the old radios that is as far as you could go, but with these radios more channels can be added to one zone. The channels and zones can be changed two ways on these radios by soft keys or rotating the channel selector which physically goes to channel 16. The soft keys are located right below the display (radio being shown), there are three buttons across the bottom being Zone Up, Zone Down and Channel Up. Utilizing the channel selector and the channel up soft keys you can go beyond channel 16. The committee is open to suggestions, however, the

major agencies have discussed this and would like to gain consensus for this template so they can move forward.

The EMS Council made a few suggestions to Russ regarding the template. Since the committee did not disagree with the proposed template it will go forward for implementation.

A discussion at the Ad Hoc Committee meeting came up regarding when we go digital. There are rumors of connection problems inside buildings if going digital by agencies outside of our county that have changed radio systems. Our baseline is an 800 MHz simulcast trunk radio system and we have experienced over 15 years of this coverage inside buildings throughout the county. We are not changing our towers other than replacing one which is within feet of the other one, but the heights remain the same, the antennae remain the same, the power output will remain the same and the antennae gains remain the same. The only difference, which is an improvement, is that we are adding another tower site in Cedar Grove that will give us 7 tower sites and increases coverage. The coverage increases with a Digital system compared to an Analogue system when looking at coverage maps, because the noise isn't heard on a weak signal like you hear on an Analogue system, on a Digital system that voice will sound perfectly clear until the signal gets so weak that it gets lost completely. Also, upon receiving authorization from another county, a zone can be created for that county which then can be selected and used for communication between counties

A dialogue on the capabilities of the new radios with 800 MHz was discussed as well as explanations of the channels and zones. Russ added that the radio is user-friendly and lense is indestructible.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF THE PGA

Suzanne requested a discussion of preliminary reviews of the past week events at the PGA. The numbers have not been completed as yet regarding statistics such as heat exhaustion and broken ankles.

Steve commented that the PGA group deserves a lot of credit with their compatibility of working together and open communication. Steve received feedback which mainly consisted of three issues. The first was that you can't put medical personnel in the field that typically don't work in the field, the next was that medical personnel were not dressed appropriately for identification purposes and people in need of medical attention would go to law enforcement since they were in uniform and easily recognized; this is an on-going issue with the PGA from prior events. The last issue was radio etiquette in regard to people who do not normally use radios, using them in the field; this led to lengthy, irrelevant conversations which prohibited requests for medical assistance going through due to the radio being busy.

Suzanne agreed there was way too much impractical chatter over the radio and stated that her recommendation for the mobile groups was to give each of the medical providers an EMS or First Responder/EMT caddie, and that person would communicate over the radio. Radios were distributed without instructions on proper use.

Steve stated there is a committee for the PGA event that groups medical personnel as a separate committee which reports to hospitality, unlike all other events which group it with security. Every year an After Action Report is completed and recommendations are made but not many changes have come from this.

Suzanne commented that this year may change opinions due to the negative publicity generated regarding issues which stemmed from the high temperatures and course conditions. She stated they have begun counting the numbers. The challenge will be compiling numbers from the various clinics, and the only way to identify some patients is by their out of town address.

Steve requested the statistics be submitted by the beginning of September due to his After Action Report having to be submitted by mid-September.

EMS QUALITY ASSURANCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Suzanne reported that the EMS Quality Assurance Subcommittee did not meet.

EMS LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Joel reported on the pending 2015 Assembly Bill 213 concerning the credential level of ambulance personnel from the Wisconsin Legislature website. This bill was introduced on May 12, 2015 by a number of local representatives. There was a public hearing yesterday and the bill still hasn't passed. He will keep checking on this and report at the next meeting.

Suzanne commented that it is an on-going debate of who would benefit, why would they benefit and whether or not it is inherently good or inherently underlines some activities, and the answer is unknown. Is it better to allow under-staffing because of the need to, or does that defeat the purpose and you're diluting out the medical care expectations.

REPORT ON SHEBOYGAN COUNTY EMS ASSOCIATION MEETING OF MAY 2015

Suzanne reported that they discussed the Self-Aid Buddy-Aid classes that were in progress. There is a Self-Aid Buddy-Aid class in Howards Grove on August 25th at 6:00 p.m. at their station. She conducted a presentation on asthma and recognizing severe asthma. Plans were made to get agencies in need of CCR and AED practice and putting it on the Fall schedule. Announcements were made regarding local upcoming events.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Suzanne Martens moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Steve Steinhardt. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

The next EMS Council meeting will be on November 18, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Steinhardt,
Recording Secretary