

**ROCK COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Thursday, December 8, 2011 – Mercy Hospital - Janesville

~ *MINUTES* ~

Members Present: Larry Knuth, Mary Beaver, Shirley Connors, Beth Natter, Jude Maurer, Pastor Bill Wagner, Barb Kuska, John Rindfleisch, Gary Schenck, alternate for Kristina Jordan, Brennon Ruosch, alternate for Dave Fonder, Dave Sleeter, alternate for Kathren Sukus, Jim Grenawalt, alternate for John Rindfleisch and Ivan Collins.

Members Absent: Dennis Ahrens, Kristina Jordan, Shelly McGuire, Dr. Michael Kellum, Loren Lippincott, Gerry Luiting, Dave Fonder, Eric Severson, Bryan Northrop, Kathren Sukus and Steve Ryan.

Guests: Brenda Clark, Director of Emergency Services, St. Mary's Hospital-Janesville; Joe Murray, City of Beloit Fire Department, who was recommended by Bryan Northrop to be his replacement upon his retirement effective December 31, 2011.

Chair Larry Knuth called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM.

Approval of Agenda: Motion was made by Ivan Collins and seconded by John Rindfleisch, to approve the September 8, 2011 agenda. Motion carried.

Reading & Approval of Past Minutes: Motion was made by Bill Wagner and seconded by Beth Natter to approve and waive the reading of the September 8, 2011 minutes. Motion carried.

Old/Unfinished Business:

- ◆ Countywide Protocols – Beth Natter advised the Committee:
 - The Rock County Paramedic protocols have been approved by the Department of Health Services. The protocols will go into effect January 1, 2012 for both Janesville Fire Department and Beloit Fire Department Paramedic Services.
 - A special thank you to all that participated in the development of the Rock County paramedic protocols: Dr. Barney, Dr. Kellum, Dr. Keilhauer, Dr. Langamo, Mark Shelton, Tom Brunner and Barb Kuska. The many hours of dedication are greatly appreciated.
 - Janesville Fire Department and Beloit Fire Department will provide surveillance through their Quality Assurance Programs.
 - The EMT-Basic and Intermediate Technician protocols of Rock County have been started; however, the release date is not known.

- ◆ Wisconsin Concealed Carry - Larry Knuth advised the Committee:
 - The start date for Wisconsin concealed carry is coming up very soon. He questioned whether the Rock County area is ready for concealed carry.

- Discussion ensued regarding various issues from hospitals, Blackhawk Technical College and law enforcement perspectives.

New Business:

- ◆ **Hospital Preparedness Update** – Barb Kuska advised the Council:
 - There is online burn training through American Burn Association-Advanced Burn Life Support (ABLS). This course is available for registered nurses, licensed paramedics or Advanced Level EMT's. For further information, contact Lori Wallman, Region 5 Wisconsin Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program.
 - Plans are being made for PIO (Public Information Officer) and Joint Information Center training. Texas Engineering Extension will be hired to do the training.
 - Patient tracking project is a WI Trac issue. Exercises are being conducted.

- ◆ **State EMS Board Update** – Larry Knuth advised the Council:
 - The Emergency Services Advisory Board has scheduled their next meetings which are as follows:
 - February 1 is the Board meeting
 - February 2 will be the Restructuring Committee.
 - Trans 309 is still open (equipment required in ambulances). More information is on the State EMS website.

Agency Reports:

- ◆ **EMS Providers**
 - City of Beloit Fire Department – Joe Murray advised the department is in the process of taking over a new billing company, Andres Medical Billing out of Illinois. December 21, they will start working on the new RFP (request for proposal) for cardiac monitors to purchase.
 - Bryan Northrop's last day with the City of Beloit Fire Department is December 22nd. His retirement party is at noon on December 22nd at the Rotary Center in Beloit.
 - Evansville EMS - Mary Beaver advised they are working on purchasing a new ambulance, getting their equipment inspected and getting everything in order.
 - Clinton EMS - John Rindfleisch advised after January 1, 2012, Clinton Fire Department would be looking at a new ambulance.
 - Paratech Ambulance - Larry Knuth advised that paramedics are being trained on a critical care level and getting ready for 2012 where the distinction must be made regarding paramedic scope and critical care.

- ◆ **Communications Center** – Dave Sleeter
 - The 911 Communications Center has been accredited by CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.) since 2009 and has an on-site accreditation inspection scheduled for April, 2012. The Rock County 911 Communications Center is the only accredited public safety communi-

cations center in Wisconsin and holds the longest accreditation status of any public safety communications center in the United States.

- The Rock County Fire/EMS paging frequency will begin the narrow-banding process in February, 2012, and should be done by April 1, 2012. The Rock County Fire/EMS frequency will not be converted to digital operations and the narrow banding process should be transparent to users during the reprogramming (February-April 2012). State-wide Mutual Aid frequencies (MABAS, MARC, Point to Point) will remain analog, but will be narrow banded also. All other Rock County public safety voice radio frequencies will be converted from analog to digital mode in the second quarter of 2012, or soon thereafter to meet the January 1, 2012 FCC narrow band requirements. The current analog radio scanners will continue to work for state-wide Mutual Aid frequencies and Rock County Fire/EMS paging communications, but will not work with the digital radio frequencies. A digital scanner will be required to monitor any digital frequency.
 - The Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) currently has a grant program open for public safety agencies only that could fund portable and mobile radio user equipment. The grant can be used to purchase new portable or mobile radio equipment, or reprogram existing radio equipment. To be eligible, the public safety agency must register online with OJA and attend an Implementation Workshop scheduled for December 19, 2011 from 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM in the County's Emergency Operations Center. All of the information is on the OJA website.
- ◆ **Emergency Management – Shirley Connors**
- Any materials distributed at the EMS Advisory Council should indicate who they came from as well as who is distributing the information on the handouts themselves.
 - Volunteer Reception Center training for teaching volunteers how to be prepared is scheduled for January 5th from 1 PM to 4:30 PM and January 6th from 8 AM to noon. Betsy Wilcox, the head of Wisconsin Emergency Volunteer Agency, will be the instructor.
- ◆ **Blackhawk Technical College – Gary Schenck**
- NIMS training – there is a change on funding. Wisconsin Emergency Management is taking over funding and that Office of Justice Assistance will no longer provide funding for this training. There is a 20 person requirement at present, however, exceptions may be made for tech schools.
 - Kristina Jordan, Blackhawk Technical College, will be attending paramedic training on January 9, 2012 at Mercy Hospital. A higher level of licensure is now being required for advanced EMT instructors in the future.
 - Kristina is working on the advanced EMT curriculum at the State level. Advanced EMT and Basic are still out there. EMT basic will no longer be called EMT basic but just referred to as EMT. Advanced EMT tech will replace intermediate technician.

- Blackhawk Technical College is steering toward more formal advisory meetings. He stated fire and EMS are separate committees and anyone interested, please send Gary an email.
 - Shirley Connors advised Wisconsin Emergency Management has a new portal site. She will send the information out via email.
- ◆ **Hospitals** – Brenda Clark - Beth Natter – Barb Kuska
- **St. Marys Hospital-Janesville:**
Brenda Clark, Director of Emergency Services, spoke to the Council and is looking forward to working with the EMS Advisory Council. The December open house had an excellent turnout. Officially, St. Mary's, Janesville will open January 9, 2012 at 5:30 AM.
 - **Mercy Hospital:**
Beth Natter stated Mercy Hospital's 20th year in the Paramedic Program starts on January 9, 2012. There are ten new students.
 - Mercy North will be opening on January 9, 2012. Open house information will be coming out in the next week.
 - **Beloit Memorial Hospital:**
Barb Kuska advised the hospital is still in the remodeling phase.
 - They are in the process of purchasing a new narrow band radio.
- ◆ **M.A.B.A.S.** – Joe Murray
- M.A.B.A.S. cards are being updated and should be out by January 1, 2012, with quite a few changes.
 - New members to the Rock County Fire Officers Committee include Evansville EMS and Clinton EMS ambulance service not connected to their municipal fire department.
- ◆ **Sheriffs Office** – Jude Maurer
- Nothing to report.
- ◆ **Clergy – CISM** – Pastor Wagner
- Stress Management – CISM training with Janesville Police Department was well received.
 - Fire Chaplains training will be held in February in Wisconsin Dells and will be working toward bylaws.
 - Fire Chiefs Conference will be held in Wisconsin Dells in June.
 - In August, 2012, there will be a Basic and Advanced Chaplains training.
 - Beloit Chaplains are doing a fundraiser concerning electric candles representing police survivors, purchasing a candle could be done through Pastor Wagner.
 - January, 2012, there will be a basic and advanced training in Rockford.

Other Announcements:

Mary Beaver advised that she would like to invite a guest speaker at the next EMS Advisory Council Meeting on March 8. She is a member of the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Pastor Wagner and seconded by Beth Natter to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:55 PM.

The next meeting will be held March 8, 2012 at Beloit Memorial Hospital.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Klipstein