

**ROCK COUNTY  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Thursday, September 11, 2014  
Mercy EMS Training Center

~ *MINUTES* ~

**Members Present:** Chair Larry Knuth, Sergeant Shena Kohler, Captain Gary Groelle, Barb Kuska, Beth Natter, Chief Mary Beaver; Shelly McGuire, Rob Lulling, Deputy Chief Peter Mory, Pastor Bill Wagner and Supervisor Terry Fell.

**Members Absent:** Deputy Chief Joe Murray, Chief Gene Wright, Kathren Sukus, Dr. Jay MacNeal, M.D., Medical Director; Brennon Ruosch, Erik Severson, Chief John Rindfleisch, Steve Ryan and Deputy Chief Bill Ruchti.

**Guests:** Robert Swenarski, St. Mary's Janesville Hospital; Deputy Chief Jim Ponkauskas, City of Janesville Fire Department; Nicole Kovarik, R.N., Beloit Health System; Brian Becker, 911 Communications; Dr. Chris Wistrom, D.O., Mercy Hospital; Cathy Mestan, Medix Ambulance; and Dr. John Russo, M.D., St. Mary's Janesville Hospital.

Chair Larry Knuth called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM. He asked the attendees to introduce themselves. He asked for a moment of silence in memory of 911.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion was made by Barb Kuska and seconded by Shelly McGuire to approve the September 11, 2014 agenda. Motion carried.

**Reading & Approval of Past Minutes:** Motion by Barb Kuska and seconded by Capt. Gary Groelle to approve the minutes of June 12, 2014. Motion carried.

**Old/Unfinished Business:** None.

**New Business:**

▪ **Hospital Preparedness Update**

- Barb Kuska advised the Wisconsin Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program, mandated by the U.S. Department of Health, is forming health care coalitions in Wisconsin. The first Health Care Coalition Committee's meeting is September 25, 2014 in Wausau. July 1, 2015, Health Care Coalitions formally begin. A decision on the Health Care Coalition Coordinator hasn't been decided as yet. There will be no flexible funding for hospitals after July 1, 2015. Some funding may be distributed from the Health Care Coalition.

▪ **State EMS Board Update**

- Chair Knuth advised the State EMS Board and sub-committees are meeting in Madison October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. There is an opening on the Education Committee if anyone was interested.

▪ **Membership – Election of Members**

- Motion by Barb Kuska and seconded by Pastor Wagner to recommend the members, whose terms expire September 30, 2014 and whose names are on the ballot, be forwarded to the Rock County Board of Supervisors for approval. Their new terms are September 30, 2014 to September 30, 2017. Motion carried.
- Moved by Deputy Chief Mory and seconded by Sgt. Kohler to recommend to the Rock County Board of Supervisors that Robert Swenarski, St. Mary's Janesville Hospital, be approved for membership on the EMS Advisory Council replacing Kim Kempken. Motion carried.
- Membership attendance was discussed. It was decided by the Council that when the members receive the agenda for the upcoming EMS meeting, they will respond as to their attendance at that meeting.

**Agency Reports:**

▪ **EMS Providers – Municipal and Private**

- Rob Lulling advised Iron Man Competition in Madison went well. There were six transports to the hospital.
- Deputy Chief Ponkauskas stated there were two upcoming events in Janesville. One is JJO Sonic Boom at the Rock County Airport. They estimate 8,000 in attendance. There will be eight personnel from the City of Janesville Fire Department on duty.

The second event will be the World Water Ski Show Tournament at Traxler Park in Janesville on September 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

▪ **Communications Center**

- Brian Becker advised they are moving forward on the new mobile data system. There will be a Train the Trainer training for fire, EMS & law enforcement in the near future.

The radio tower in Edgerton is moving forward slowly, there have been a few problems along the way. If they are not able to break ground before it gets too cold, they will wait until spring.

▪ **Rock County Sheriff's Office – Emergency Management**

- Sgt. Kohler advised there is a community leaders breakfast on September 18<sup>th</sup> at Blackhawk Technical College from 7:30 – 9:30 AM. She stated it is a good community activity. Sgt. Kohler gave the Council the contact information for this event.

She also stated she has been working with the Health Department on the Mass Fatality Plan. The final draft is close to being done and will be forwarded to everyone once it is completed.

She announced the Hazmat Tank Truck Emergency Response Workshop, hosted by the City of Janesville Fire Department, will be held on September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> at the City of Janesville Fire Department, 303 Milton Avenue. Registration is found on TrainingWisconsin.org. There was grant money that became available at the last minute from the State of Wisconsin.

She stated her office is working on the Plan of Work which is due October 31, 2014.

Sgt. Kohler announced she has been working with VOAD (Volunteers Active in Disasters) changing the venue of the meeting as well as meeting times. Meetings will now be four times a year instead of every month. The first meeting of the new VOAD is October 8, 2014 at 9 AM at Cargill United Methodist Church in Janesville. The invitation was extended to local volunteer organizations, faith based organizations and any businesses that would be interested in creating a strong community partnership for emergency preparedness, response and recovery. The invitations will be forwarded to EMS members as well.

Sgt. Kohler further stated that Captain Bill Tyler, City of Beloit Police Department, is putting together information for ICS 300 and ICS 400 training which will be held in October and November. She will forward the information when it becomes available.

- **Blackhawk Technical College** – No one available to report.

- **Hospitals**

- Beloit Health System – Barb Kuska handed out a sheet entitled “Communicating Needs and Vulnerability with Community”. This sheet is for informational purposes only. Barb introduced Nicole Kovarik who has been working with her on emergency preparedness. She indicated that Nicole would be attending the EMS Advisory Council meetings as her alternate.

She also advised on September 24<sup>th</sup>, they are expecting a Joint Commission visit on their primary stroke center.

- Edgerton Hospital & Health Services – Shelly McGuire advised they submitted an offer for the vacant CEO position and are waiting for an answer.
- St. Mary’s Janesville Hospital – Robert Swenarski stated St. Mary’s has been doing some decon training out in their ambulance bay. There have been some questions regarding entry into the ambulance bay. Robert stated they are open to suggestions to making changes. They will be putting out a questionnaire regarding the matter.

The hospital is working on its chest pain accreditation. The final meeting is in December.

He invited EMS members to the September 24<sup>th</sup> breakfast meeting at St. Mary’s Janesville Hospital.

- Mercy Health System - Dr. Wistrom advised the new protocols have been approved and are operational. Some of the medications have been replaced.

Dr. Wistrom advised the new ambulance bay opened September 1<sup>st</sup>. He asked that ambulance drivers be courteous and not block the entrances. He asked that if ambulances had to be parked in the ambulance bay unattended, please leave the keys in the ignition so they can be moved if necessary.

He further stated the Paramedic Program had ten full time graduates. Part time paramedics are in their clinicals at the present time and are progressing nicely.

MD1 is up and running in Walworth County and available for service.

Dr. Wistrom also stated that on October 18, 2014, there is a paramedic from Israel who is coming to Janesville to speak at Mercy Center regarding terrorism, bombings and situations of that nature. More information will be forthcoming. They are expecting approximately 300 to be in attendance.

Dr. Wistrom gave a commendation to Medix Ambulance for the excellent job they did at Country Thunder.

▪ **M.A.B.A.S. and Fire**

- Chair Knuth advised the Wisconsin Fire Chief's Association 25<sup>th</sup> Team legislative agenda was printed in a magazine or a new letter. In that printing, there was a MABAS article as it relates to fire districts. MABAS may or may not have the same liability issues than a municipal department.

▪ **Clergy – CISM**

- Pastor Wagner advised there have been a number of interventions done lately with agencies. He advised if anyone is interested in training, there are a variety of classes including Train the Trainer, that will be conducted at the Regional Training Meeting in Chicago on October 22 – October 26, 2014. The Wisconsin State Fire Chief Chaplain Unit will be sponsoring an event in advanced chaplain training on November 4<sup>th</sup> – November 6<sup>th</sup> in Wisconsin Rapids. They have met with Beloit Police and Janesville Police Chaplains. Apparently some of the residents that needed transporting to hospitals were transported to Mercy Health System - Janesville when their families were located in Beloit. There will be a training with Beloit Police Department and other law enforcement agencies on the suicide prevention program. Trainers are available. There have been some problems of identification of chaplains when entering hospitals. They will be meeting to work out some of the problems.

**Other Announcements** – Chair Knuth advised the Professional Ambulances of Wisconsin Conference is in Green Bay September 17<sup>th</sup> – September 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be a Stars of Life presentation at the conference banquet.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Shelly McGuire and seconded by Robert Swenarski to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.

The next meeting will be held December 11, 2014 at Beloit Health System.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Klipstein