

**ROCK COUNTY  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Thursday, September 13, 2018  
SSM Health St Mary's Hospital, Janesville – 12:30 pm

**MINUTES**

---

**Members Present:**

Chair Larry Knuth, Dr. Kacey Kronenfeld, Andrea Hughes, Robert Swenarski, Rob Lulling, Supervisor Terry Fell, Beth Natter, Chief Jamie Kessenich, Chief Randy Pickering, Brian Becker, Jason Russ, Rob Balsamo, Barb Kuska, Dr. Jay MacNeal, and Commander Troy Knudson

**Members Absent:** Deputy Chief Jim Ponkauskas, Sgt. Shena Kohler, Chief Gene Wright, Deputy Chief Peter Mory, Shelly McGuire, Deputy Chief Joe Murray, Steve Ryan, Barry Irman

**Guests:** Alison Chouinard, Rock County Public Health.

**Call to Order:**

Chair Larry Knuth called the meeting to order at 12:34 PM.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Chair Larry Knuth moved to make an addition to the agenda this month to include *Committee Member Appointment* discussion. Motion was made Rob Balsamo and seconded by Chief Randy Pickering to approve the September 13, 2018 agenda. Motion carried.

**Reading & Approval of Past Minutes:**

Motion by Barb Kuska and seconded by Supervisor Terry Fell to waive the reading of and approve the minutes for September 14, 2017. Motion carried.

**Old/Unfinished Business:**

None.

**New Business:**

**Membership – Election of Members**

- Members Chief Jamie Kessenich, Dr. Jay MacNeal, Barb Kuska, Deputy Chief Peter Mory, Deputy Chief Joe Murray, Beth Natter, and Steve Ryan are up for reelection in 2018. A motion was made by Brian Becker to reappoint all members. Motion seconded by Barb Kuska. Motion carried.
- Motion was made by Chief Randy Pickering to elect the Rock County Public Health Department, representative Alison Chouinard, and alternate Rick Wietersen to the Community-at-Large position. Motion seconded by Brian Becker. Motion carried.

## **Agency Reports:**

### **State EMS Board Update**

- Chair Larry Knuth reported he was unable to attend the August meeting. Dr. Kacey Kronenfield reported the Physician Advisory Council is preparing to push the piloting of flex staffing of agencies. The council was able to work through the paramedic scope of practice.

### **EMS Providers – Municipal and Private**

- Jason Russ from Edgerton stated they have submitted their operational plan to the State of WI to advance to paramedic in July and in August heard back with approval from the state. They are currently working out a medication exchange program with Edgerton Hospital and some additional training is needed so go live date as of yet.
- Chief Jamie Kessenich from Evansville reported they have ordered a new replacement ambulance that will arrive in about 8 months. They have also upgraded some monitoring equipment in their rigs.
- Rob Lulling stated there are no updates from Ryan Brothers.
- Chief Larry Knuth stated there are no updates from Paratech.

### **Hospitals and Clinics**

- Barb Kuska from Beloit Hospital reported they are expecting to have state surveyors coming for their trauma survey next week, and the Joint Commission and stroke surveys coming up yet this year. In previous trauma surveys, they have observed long delays in obtaining critical care transports. They believe staffing shortage of critical care transport agencies are to blame.
- Beth Natter and Dr. Jay MacNeal from Mercy Health reports the size of their paramedic class has doubled. Dr. MacNeal also reported on the county-wide MARS Cards, (Mutual Aid Response System) for law enforcement personnel. Dr. MacNeal, Dr. Wistrom, and Chief Hooker from Clinton Police will be presenting Rock County's MARS at the International Association of Chiefs of Police in Orlando, Florida in October. Brian Becker from Rock County Communications Center also mentioned Rock County MARS is being tested in a few weeks.
- Robert Swenarski from SSM Health St. Mary's Janesville stated the hospital had its Trauma Survey a few weeks ago and are currently awaiting results. He also reported that they recently sent four staff members to Anniston, Alabama to the Center for Domestic Preparedness where they took the Healthcare Leadership for Mass Casualty class. He reported that Jason Steinke, Emergency Room/ICU director has left his position and they are currently seeking a replacement.

### **Rock County 911 Communications Center**

- Brian Becker stated they are now fully staffed. The county has given them the ability to over hire giving them the advantage of having someone ready and trained immediately if a staff member were to leave their employment. He also stated the fire paging system for the state is up and is running efficiently. This system allows them to assist other dispatch centers if needed.

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

- Commander Troy Knudson reported that Sergeant Kohler is currently in California pursuing training and is expected to return on September 17<sup>th</sup>. He stated there have been a lot of media requests due to the recent flooding in the county. He stated the courts are currently working to get trauma kits in their locations in case an emergency arises. He also stated that

he is surprised by the number of serious case inmates with varying health conditions, giving an examples of some being bed ridden. Discussion also ensued regarding inmate transports from medical facilities after treatment.

**Blackhawk Technical College**

- Robert Balsamo reports BTC will be having a CPR instructor class on February 23, 2019, and the college will be going under the Higher Learning Review in February and fire and EMS programs are up for review this fall. Clinicals for EMT and AEMT are starting next week. Enrollment is currently up at the college system and he feels that, in part, is due to BTC having a good relationship with the area high schools. He stated that BTC is looking into the logistics of possibly getting an EVOC course built at their facility.

**Rock County Healthcare Coalition**

- Barb Kuska stated that Jennifer Behnke, Coordinator for the South Central Wisconsin Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition had sent out an email recruiting people for a tabletop exercise scheduled for September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Bob Swenarski added that this exercise is also part of an incident command platform and involved more entities than just IT/cyber security. Barb Kuska also announced a planned exercise for a full-scale multi-casualty surge exercise planned for June 2019. She reported on the possibility of an exercise in Rock County to look at the current POD sites in our region as plans are needed to be looked at and revised. She also stated that at the August meeting coagulopathy of contaminated synthetic cannabinoids was discussed and announced that there is a national organization that will now provide vitamin K for free for patients who need long term therapy. Discussion ensued with Commander Troy Knudson regarding availability of this service to the jail.

**Public Input:** None.

**Other Announcements:**

Alison Chouinard from Public Health announced that the health department has flood clean-up kits available for free to citizens. She reported on upcoming events including a rabies vaccination clinic at the Rock County Fairgrounds on Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> and a Senior Fair on Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn Express, Janesville and again on Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> in Beloit. Public Health will have flu, shingles, and Tdap vaccinations available to citizens during the fairs.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Robert Swenarski and seconded by Rob Lulling to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:37 pm.

**The next meeting will be held on December 13, 2018  
at Beloit Health System, Beloit, WI.**

###

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Kettleon  
09.24.2018