

**Gage County EMS Advisory Committee
Beatrice Community Hospital
Beatrice, Nebraska
March 13, 2008**

Meeting Summary

Present:

Mark Meints
Rex Adams
Brian Daake
Dan Hawkins
Larry Stanosheck
Jane Ford-Witthoff
Gary Williams
Don Harmon
Allan Fetty
Ron Miller
Dee Fritch

Absent:

Dennis Byars

Resources:

Dean Cole
Richard Mettler
Robyn Henderson

Guests:

Dawn Hill

Future Meeting Dates:

April 10 (this is change)
May 8 (this is change)
June 12 (location TBD)
July 10
August 7

Introductions

Don asked folks to introduce themselves.

History/Purpose of the EMS Assessment

Dean Cole reviewed the history of the Gage County EMS assessment, the purpose of which was to provide a “snap shot” of the current state of EMS in Gage County. A Steering Committee was appointed to guide the early process. Surveys and interviews were conducted by consultants, Gary Wingrove and Jimm Murray, and the final report and recommendations were presented to the County Supervisors. The County Board created this Advisory Committee to review content of final report and to make further recommendations to the Board. An implementation plan will then be developed and work will begin on implementing agreed upon changes.

County Board of Supervisors Expectations

County Board appointed Don Harmon as chair of the Advisory Committee. The goal set by the Board for this committee is to improve EMS services in Gage County in a fair and efficient manner. The committee is not necessarily required to focus only on recommendations contained in the report. The Board also wants to make sure that minority opinions are included in the final report, and they want a timely resolution of issues.

Gage County EMS Advisory Committee Study Group Charter Review –

Richard Mettler reviewed the committee charter. For the purposes of consistency, it was decided to use “Advisory Committee” when referring to this group. Members reviewed for content and questions. There are some restraints on the scope of this committee: Fires issues, response to HAZMAT and others are not included. Charter will be revised to reflect that the Board of Supervisors appointed Don Harmon as chair.

Mark Meints asked if we need physician on advisory committee. Dr. Studley is interested in being involved; he is the medical director for many of the local squads. Concerned was expressed regarding the amount of time he would have for committee work. The committee would like to use him as resource for medical issues. Although it was suggested to get in his input regarding medical director issues, Dean suggested it might be better to use an outside physician to review medical director issues. It was decided to consult Dr. Studley and other physicians in the county on an “as needed basis.”

After the second meeting, Richard will develop a written macro work process plan for presentation to Board of Supervisors. Richard would be happy to help facilitate group processes if the committee wishes; his role is to help with process, not content.

General Discussion and Next Steps

The group needs to discuss developing an ambulance district for taxing purposes as the county can't continue to be sole funding source; they are facing budget shortages as well. Dawn Hill will consult with the County Attorney regarding legal issues of setting up a taxing district.

The committee needs to explore the option of sharing a county purchasing agent that squads can use to ensure all units are consistently and fully equipped

While the Beatrice system seems to be working well, it can't be the “Cash Cow” that supports county-wide EMS needs.

City will have different priorities than many others. Each of the partners will have different perspectives in this issue. The committee needs to look at what role each entity will have in the recommendations.

When the local agreements are worked out, many issues may be resolved.

Message to community needs to be on quality of care provided in Gage County.

FOR NEXT MEETING

- Everybody is to send priorities to Robyn before April 10 meeting
- Don will talk with Dr. Studley about his participation
- April meeting is moved to April 10 – Richard won't be here
- May meeting is moved to May 8th – SE-AHEC need to work out staffing for meeting.

Other Information Needed: (Mark and Robyn will develop quick survey to send to all districts)

- Budget from each Unit.
- Amount of time provided by volunteers: for rural districts calls average 1.5 to 2.0 hours in length. Beatrice calls last about an hour.
- Call volume – Dee can get that information. Gage County and Wymore pay for 911 centers. How many of calls are medical, law enforcement, and fire. Get information to Robyn for last three years