

Gage County EMS Advisory Committee
Beatrice, Nebraska
October 9, 2008
8:00 a.m.

Minutes

Present:

Don Harmon
Rex Adams
Jane Witthoff
Mark Meints
Larry Stanosheck
Brian Daake
Alan Fetty

Absent:

Dan Hawkins
Ron Miller
Dee Fritch
Dennis Byars
Dawn Hill
Gary Williams

Staff Resources:

Robyn Henderson
Dean Cole
Richard Mettler

Call Meeting to Order

Dean Cole reported that Ron Miller has been diagnosed with cancer and is in treatment.

Approve Minutes

Motion made and seconded to accept minutes, motion approved with the following correction: Clarification – on first page of minutes, salary and mileage both come out of the total payment amount.

Physician Medical Director

Contract is being reviewed by County Attorney's office.

Mark reported that Dr. Studley has resigned as medical director for Wymore and Beatrice as of midnight on October 15. Dean will work with two departments to ensure that they are covered.

Report to County Board of Supervisors

Don shared a copy of his written report he provided to the Board, which gave a review of activities to date. There was some discussion about the ambulance district. Don noted that we were to have provided a report with recommendations: however, activities have lent themselves more to a verbal report – sharing details and nuances. Board was encouraged with the work. Report was well received by Board

EMS Department Visits

Handout from Don summarizes visits. One concern that was mentioned by several units was trouble having daytime coverage. Don was impressed with folks they met with – great motivation, looking forward to new direction, PMD, sharing and collaboration with other services.

Comments from Subcommittees and Others

No comments or discussion

Ambulance District (AD)

Richard Mettler provided a handout delineating organizational options for an ambulance district. It was noted that we need to keep Rick Schreiner in the loop on all of this. Dean stated that the committee needs a tax attorney to help with the details and complexities of the AD; he is trying to get lawyer from Omaha that works with hospital districts. Dean is working on funding for the outside counsel.

Governing Body for AD

Option A – have governing body be under the supervision of the County Board. AD will be under the tax lid.

Advantages: 3 – highly desirable; 1- no big deal
Convenient – this option is the current system 1
Well defined 3
Assured county oversight 1

Disadvantages: 3 big obstacle; 1 no big deal
Political – goes with change in leadership
Decisions made by people with no expertise in the area 2
Less focused 2
Support from Beatrice (?)
Change in elected leadership 3

Option B – form the ambulance districts own governing body – “airport authority”. If formed totally outside of government, then it is not under the tax lid. Board would be elected and accountable to the public, **not** to the County Board.

Advantages: 3 highly desirable 1 not big deal
More focus 3
Assured funding source 3
Oversight for medical and financial issues 3
Shared purchasing 3
Expertise on board 3
Consistency in operations, protocol, medical 3
Less issues for county board 3
Expertise pool for membership is larger 3

Disadvantage: 3 big obstacle 1 not big deal
How to structure 1
Determine appropriate scope 1
Loss of local department identity 3
Loss of local control 1
Public accountability 1
Support from Beatrice (?)
Legal and taxing issues that need to be resolve 3

Option C- form multiple Ambulance districts within the county – all have own taxing authority, but need to work with all other districts

Advantages: 3 good ---1 bad

Local ownership and control 3

Maintain local identity 3

Less headaches for county government 1

More problem-specific 2

More awareness of local issues 3

Disadvantages: 3 big obstacle 1 not obstacle

Lack of medical constituency 3

Difficult to collaborate 3

Turf wars – territoriality 3

Isolation 3

Inconsistency in financing 3

Legal and taxing issues that need to be resolve 3

Where is leadership ? 3

Inability to address county-wide medical issues 3

Difficult to find medical directors – would need multiple 3

Doesn't address reason for which the committee was formed 3

Limited expertise to pick from 3

Criteria for final consideration:

More awareness of local issues

More problem-specific

Characteristics of Board membership 7 members

PMD – ex officio (advisory)

Citizen

EMT and Paramedical: Representation from departments: Departments elect 2-3 representatives (11 fire depts.; 9 have EMS; Filley and Blue Spring are two without EMS)

Hospital

Communications

County Board - 1

Payment to outsider departments that provide services in county

Needs to be a decision of the ambulance district board

Next steps

Don and Rex will follow-up on contract with Dr. Rice; his hourly rate for working the committee is \$100.00

Don will talk with rest of medical directors

Determine how to deal with Dr. Studley's resignation – either have him stay on until Dr. Rice is on; or bring Dr. Rice on as early as possible

With no other business, meeting adjourned.