

**Gage County EMS Advisory Committee**  
**Beatrice, Nebraska**  
**February 12, 2009**  
**8:00 a.m.**

**Minutes**

**Present:**

Don Harmon  
Dan Hawkins  
Larry Stanosheck  
Mark Meints  
Jane Witthoff  
Brian Daake  
Ron Miller  
Alan Fetty

**Absent:**

Dawn Hill  
Rex Adams  
Dee Fritch  
Dennis Byars  
Matt Bauman  
Gary Williams

**Staff Resources:**

Robyn Henderson  
Dean Cole  
Richard Mettler  
Don Rice, MD

**Call Meeting to Order**

Don Harmon called the meeting to order and asked members to introduce themselves.

**Approve Minutes**

Motion made and seconded to accept agenda and minutes, motion approved.

**Physician Medical Director Update**

Things are coming together around the three priority issues of Gage County Assessment:

- volunteer services are over fatigued
- quality care
- ALS service to all residents of county

Dr. Rice said he has been to out to all departments to do inventory audit with exception of Adams and Odell

Northern Area – Cortland, Clatonia, Adams

This area has unique needs. Communities have several highly trained nurses (cardiac dept.) working in Lincoln that could be used by these services. Dr. Rice will be working with Cortland to relicense as an ALS Non-transport.

Middle Area - Beatrice and Beatrice Rural

Beatrice Rural has real problems with manning calls during harvest, etc. However, Beatrice also responds to all calls. Suggest that Beatrice Rural allow their ambulance license to expire and Beatrice then will take all calls. Beatrice can incorporate Beatrice Rural volunteer EMTs into his squad.

Southern area – Wymore, Barneston, Odell

Wymore has older volunteers and a high number of calls; the folks that they deal with are older (65 +) and really need tertiary care services. Barneston and Wymore will begin working together

to cover calls; Barneston has younger volunteers and Wymore will start being able to call them. Wymore also has Nurses available that can help staff runs.

Dr. Rice and Brian Daake agreed to start sending Brian's paramedics back to school to become trained in critical care (five paramedics will go to Creighton for the training). Beatrice will be able to refit some of its units to operate as a "mobile intensive care unit," which will be able diagnosis and treat patients immediately while waiting for Star Care. Dr. Rice noted he would like to get "communication" established between a mobile care unit and tertiary hospital cardiac expert (Lincoln); the mobile units can do twelve-lead EKGs so it would be great to get that info to hospital. Paramedics with mobile units also would be able to administer thrombolytics while in the field

BryanLGH's emergency room has been "squirrely" about having ER docs on the phone with the field so having on-line communication may not happen, although they are required to do it. Another option is to try to work out something with Beatrice Hospital for more assistance.

All of these things are considered medically appropriate and are being done by others. Perhaps this could move Gage County.

Discussion have begun with Star Care to find landing sites. One possible site is Big Indian Lake; the NRD has already approved this. Also, a couple properties in Wymore are being considered

**Over Next 60 days Dr. Rice will:**

- Meet with Odell and Adams
- Make sure all licenses are up to date, CE, etc
- Start talking with BryanLGH
- Bring in another PA (Medical Director) to help with charts reviews and determining how many runs have bypassed Beatrice for cardiac, etc. So far, Dr. Rice hasn't been able to do much chart QA/QI.

Dr. Rice asks committee members to keep this all a bit below the radar. He needs to have more chats with other doctors first. This is in early development stages yet.

**Meeting with Jill Jensen re: Ambulance District (AD)**

Jane provided a review of the meeting with Jill Jensen. The group will meet with Jill again on March 5th. She will attend March 12 meeting of the committee. Jill mentioned we may need to look at legislative fixes. Jane will ask Jill to look at utility surcharge for ambulance district funding.

**Announcement:** March 25th – 10:30 a.m. – Board of Supervisors hearing on county dollars for EMS.

**With no other business, meeting adjourned.**

**Next meetings:**

April 9, 2009

May 14, 2009

June 11, 2009

July 9, 2009