

Richland County Joint Ambulance Committee

July 19, 2017

Minutes

Present: Jeanetta Kirkpatrick, Fred Clary, Dan Schweinfus, Mary Rognholt, Calvin Brown, Gordon Brockway, James Lingel, Glen Niemeyer, Steve Chupp, Ryan Keller, Scott Banker, Gordon Palmer, Pat Marshall, Bob Holets, Jean Nicks, Darin Gudgeon

Not Present: Paul Corcoran, Marc Couey, Verlin Coy, Terrance Jindrick

1. Meeting was called to order at 1900.
2. Notification of the meeting had been made and the agenda was posted.
3. Committee attendance was as noted above, with 15 present.
4. A motion was made by Keller to approve the agenda as posted. Niemeyer made a motion to second it. The agenda was approved.
5. A motion to approve the minutes for the May 17, 2017 meeting was made by Holets and seconded by Niemeyer. The minutes were approved.
6. There were no comments from the public at this time.
7. There were no comments from the EMT Delegation at this time.
8. Joel Kent with Cvikota was called on the phone to discuss their reporting. It was clarified that on the Cvikota reports, "allowances" is the term they use for "Write-offs" regarding the uncollectible portion of a bill. It was also clarified that what was billed out or collected for the month may not be reflective of calls from that month. Kent stated that it is rare to get 100% payment, and that it can take months to receive any payment. He stated that they will bill insurance. Then a bill is sent for any amount that can be billed directly to the patient. They will bill 30 days later if there is no response. After another 30 days with no payment or contact, they will send a letter stating the patient has 10 days before the bill will go to collections. They will typically wait 30 days from the time of the letter, and if no response, they will place them in the Tax Return Intercept Program (TRIP). It will be listed as "Bad Debt" and that money will no longer be pursued, as the State will take over collection of it. All payments are deposited into our bank; Cvikota never controls the money. They will never take their percentage out; they will always send us a bill. Money previously put into TRIP go through the Clerk's Office as before. Also clarified was the title "On Scene Care," which refers to patient's not transferred. Such patients are charged a blanket \$75 for the call, regardless of level of assessment or care. Standbys are billed internally, not through Cvikota. ALS1 is different from ALS2 based on the amount of interventions. ALS1 refers to calls where such skills as IVs have been established. ALS2 refers to skills such as IOs, intubations, or three or more doses of IV drugs (not including saline). ALS1 payouts from Medicare are typically \$421.62 versus ALS2 at \$610.24 per call billed at that level. A paramedic intercept typically falls under ALS2. The payer mix information is available through their online. Kent stated he will work with the director on that for future

meetings. Kent stated if anyone had any further questions he can be reached at ems@cvikota.com or 1-715-832-0707. At this time the phone call was ended.

It was further noted that a total year-to-date would be helpful. It was also discussed that the payments received comparing this year to last year at this time are appearing to be fairly comparable. Gudgeon stated that there were more billable calls last year but that we had previously been receiving approximately 50-51% in the end. Kirkpatrick noted there was a discrepancy between the payments received between Cvikota and the Clerk's Office. Gudgeon stated that it was due to posting dates. Cvikota posts payments to the month of service whereas the Clerk's Office posts when the payment is received. Both the Clerk and Treasurer's offices have stated that they are pleased with the service thus far.

9. The cash/revenue report and bills were reviewed as provided in the handouts. There were questions regarding Top Choice Home Inspection, which Gudgeon stated was the ambulance's portion of the building inspection cost. There was no grant expenditure report provided, as there has been no activity at this time.

The ELITE call summary report was reviewed. There is no township report at this time. It was noted that 25% of calls are no transports. It was also noted that if the current pace maintained, that the service would come in under the total number of calls from last year. A question arose that if the first two ambulances are on non-emergency calls, what would happen if an emergent call came in. Gudgeon stated that triaging is done based on the information provided. If an emergency call comes in prior to arriving on scene to a non-emergent call, the crew would divert to the emergent call and a page would be sent out to get a crew for the non-emergent call. It was discussed that we currently have three signed agreements with Baraboo District Ambulance Service: one for an intercept for calls such as CPR or for pain management, where the money collected is split 50/50; another for mutual aid if all of our ambulances are tied up and we need additional resources; and the last for a back-up if we are not able to cover call. The last has never been used since it was signed.

10. Regarding the conclusion of Amber Burch's probationary period, Gudgeon stated that the policy states that once probation has been completed, the item it so be brought to the overseeing committee for approval. Burch will complete her 6 month probation on Monday, July 24th, and Gudgeon recommended the probationary period be concluded. This would change her pay scale from \$10.92/hour to \$11.41/hour. The motion was made by Holets, seconded by Keller. Motion passed.
11. There was discussion regarding the 2018/2019 contract as presented at the previous meeting. Contracts had been provided to each municipality to be brought back with any thoughts or suggested changes. It was discussed that the City of Richland Center will be having presentations by Baraboo District Ambulance Service and the Richland County Ambulance Service on August 1, with a vote set for August 15th to determine which ambulance service will be covering the City. It was noted that if the City selected Baraboo, that the townships would not be able to fund the ambulance service on their own and would likely be forced to find a different service. This could place more stress on the smaller area services, creating a snowball effect. A question was asked of Schweinfus, to which he stated that it was difficult to know what the City Council would decide, and that discussions will be held at the next Council Meeting for those interested.

Regarding the contract, Niemeyer made a motion to vote on the 2018/2019 contract as presented contingent upon the City's decision on August 15, 2017. Palmer seconded the motion. It would take 11 votes to pass. A roll call vote was conducted with a decision of 11 votes for, 0 votes against, 4 votes abstain. The abstentions were due to no discussion or decision with the township. Motion passed.

12. A brief subcommittee report was given by Palmer, who stated that they had met with the neighboring ambulance services covering 911 in Richland County to inform them of the potential County-Wide tax and what that would mean for them. All groups appeared favorable to this. None stated they would turn it down.
13. The possible continuation of the subcommittee was discussed. A motion was made by Brown to table the item until after the City makes their decision. Nicks seconded. Motion carried.
14. Holets made a motion to go into closed session, seconded by Niemeyer. Motion carried. There are no official minutes from this session.
15. The next meeting was set for August 16th, 2017 at 7pm.
16. Nicks made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Holets. The meeting was adjourned at 20:58.