

Richland County Joint Ambulance Committee
Minutes of meeting
Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Present were: Fred Clary, County Board; Jeanetta Kirkpatrick, County Board; Marsha Machotka, Richland Center City Council; Mary Rognholt, Akan Township; Calvin Brown, Bloom Township; Gordon Brockway, Buena Vista Township; James Lingel, Dayton Township; Marc Couey, Eagle Township; Verlin Coy, Henrietta Township; Glen Niemeyer, Ithaca Township; Steve Chupp, Marshall Township; Gordon Palmer, Richland Township; Scott Banker, Rockbridge Township; Pat Marshall, Sylvan Township; Bob Holets, Willow Township; Jean Nicks, Boaz; Jim Huffman, Yuba; Darin Gudgeon, Ambulance Director; Jeanne Rice, Admin Secretary.

Absent were: Paul Corcoran, Richland Center Mayor; Ryan Keller, Orion Township.

Chair Kirkpatrick, called meeting to order 7:00pm.

Meeting had been properly posted.

Rice called roll call of members. 17 present.

Huffman made motion, seconded by Brown to approve agenda – motion carried.

Holets made motion, seconded by Niemeyer to approve minutes of September 3, 2015 meeting – motion carried.

Public Comment/Input:

No input at this time

EMT Delegation:

No input at this time

Discussion and take action regarding No transports:

At last meeting there was a request for insurance information if known for “no transports”. Sheet passed out outlining insurance information for the months of June, July, August and September.

June had 12 calls – 1 had Medical Assistance, 4 Medicare, 7 were not on file/insurance unknown

July had 12 calls – 1 Medical Assistance, 2 Medicare, 9 not on file/insurance unknown

August had 11 calls – 3 Medical Assistance, 4 Medicare, 4 not on file/insurance unknown

September had 9 calls – 7 Medical Assistance, 2 not on file/insurance unknown.

Medical Assistance is the only one we can recoup funds from. Medicare will not pay anything for a call when a patient was not transported, which is the same with most other insurance companies.

So if the committee decides to bill the patient for a no transport call, we will be able to bill insurance only for those having Medical Assistance – the rest will be solely responsible for the bill.

Kirkpatrick wanted Gudgeon to make a recommendation as to billing for no transports. Gudgeon stated that if we do bill for no transport calls, we must have an established base rate just for no transports. The patient determines no transport. A child under 18 years of age is a minor and is automatically transported if no adult is present.

Clary says if Medical Assistance pays \$69.00, the remainder will be written off. Other insurance companies will deny any payment and bill will go out to the patient.

The average cost of a call would be \$60 - \$70.

Couey made motion, seconded by Banker to set a \$75.00 no transport fee to be effective January 1, 2016 – motion carried with 2 opposed.

We can add a statement to our present HIPAA form asking for insurance information. After insurance is billed, the patient can be allowed to make payments within 90 days. The policy now is to file unpaid accounts with TRIP (Tax Receipt Intercept Program) to collect. Corporate Counsel Ben Southwick can also send a letter requesting payment. The Townships are charged \$150 per call per the contract.

Director's Report:

Gudgeon discussed new format for reports from August and September for requests for service and ambulance billing data as well as ambulance expense/revenue and cash balance for the end of each month.

August we had a total of 63 calls – year to date 552.

52 calls were billable, 11 were not billable calls.

We billed out \$42,464.25 – year to date \$293,430.00

We received \$18,301.33 – year to date \$126,178.45 and have written off \$112,131.92

Monthly expenses were \$45,008.84 – year to date \$197,660.79

Cash balance end of August was \$17,116.02.

September we had a total of 66 calls – year to date 618

55 calls were billable, 9 were not billable calls.

We billed out \$37,646.00 – year to date \$331,076.00

We received \$16,999.96 – year to date \$143,451.77 and have written off \$129,994.43

Monthly expenses were \$30,038.68 – year to date \$227,669.47

Cash balance end of September was \$12,157.30.

Gudgeon went over budget sheets for August and September.

Clary says the County is in the process of bidding out for municipal insurance coverage.

Gudgeon went over Municipality statistics.

In August, the number of calls (total 63) per Municipality was as follows:

Henrietta-1, Orion-1, town of Richland-1, Richland Center-44, Rockbridge-1, Willow-1, Boaz-1, remainder-0

Pine Valley-6, Transfers-2, Events-4, Mutual aid-1.

In September, the number of calls (total 66) per Municipality was as follows:

Buena Vista-2, Dayton-3, Ithaca-2, Marshall-1, town of Richland-3, Richland Center-31, Rockbridge-2, remainder-0

Pine Valley-5, Transfers-5, Events-11, Mutual aid-1.

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at 7:00pm in the County Board Room.

Holets made motion, seconded by Huffman to adjourn – motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.