

Richland County Joint Ambulance Committee  
November 20, 2019  
Minutes

Present: Brian McGraw, Kerry Severson, Mike Kaufman, Scott Wallace, James Lingel, Glen Niemeyer, Steve Chupp, Brian Clarson, Gordon Palmer, Doug Duhr, Bob Holets, Jean Nicks, Terrance Jindrick, Darin Gudgeon.

Not Present: Mary Rognholt, Marc Couey, Verlin Coy.

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 13 members present.
4. A motion was made by Severson to approve the agenda as posted. Palmer seconded it. Motion Carried; the agenda was approved.
5. A motion was made by Holets and seconded by Clarson to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as presented. Motion carried; the minutes were approved.
6. There were no comments from the public.
7. There were no comments from the EMT delegation.
8. A. The consolidated reports from August, September, and October were reviewed with minimal discussion.  
B. The Cvikota report was reviewed with invoices being provided in member packets.  
C. The quarterly call summary from August 1 through October 31 was reviewed with 306 calls; Gudgeon noted that approximately 2.5% of calls ran emergent to the hospital. It was asked if there were more requests for transfers than the 24 transfers documented. Gudgeon stated that there were some requests that were made but a crew was not able to be established to cover the needs. Having a combination department, when a request comes in and there are not two crews established to cover both 911 and the transfer requested, a message is sent out to all qualified members. If no one responds that they are available, a crew cannot be sent for the transfer. Priority is given to 911. The need for a back-up crew is to cover both transfers and 911 calls when the primary truck is already out. Gudgeon stated that he is working with the squad members on a finding ways to ensure the second truck has regular coverage. An ad-hoc committee has been established within the squad membership to come up with ideas and strategies. McGraw stated that one of the priorities of the JAC is to have a second truck staffed to help our community partners like the Richland Hospital. In order to do that, the squad members need to be on board with that goal also. The problem hasn't been that the Hospital has not been reaching out as much as it has been that the Service is unable to consistently staff a second truck. The Hospital staff call those who are readily available most often and the Richland County Ambulance Service is simply not regularly available. Gudgeon reminded the Committee that some of the decision comes down to the license level of the Service, as there are needs of some patients that the Service cannot fulfill. However, some Hospital staff

members are not calling because they do not expect that the Service will have the staffing coverage to take it. The Service cannot market that it is able to do transfers until there is consistent coverage. Again, Gudgeon stated, this is an issue that is being addressed through working cooperatively with the Service members toward a solution.

9. Amber Morris, Secretary of the Richland County Ambulance Association, stated that the Association voted to donate \$13,000 to the purchase and installation of a new powerload system for the newly purchased ambulance, with more donations being received since that meeting. Gudgeon stated that the lift-system will cost an estimated \$23,000-\$25,000 to purchase and install. The Committee acknowledged and applauded the efforts of the Association and thanked them for their service.
10. Gudgeon stated that the 1997 ambulance has been listed on Wisconsin Surplus, with the auction set to end on the morning of November 27<sup>th</sup>. The current high bid is \$2,250.00.
11. Gudgeon updated the Committee on the Inter-Facility Transfer Study. He stated that data was received from the Richland Hospital Tuesday of the week prior, as the person who had access to the data had had a personal emergency and was out of the office for a time. A meeting was scheduled with SWWRPC. The accuracy of the data provided was questioned, as the numbers that were suggested to be transfers the Service would be able to take were less than the number of transfers from the Hospital that Cvikota's report showed were billed out in the same time frame. The service level was also not coded; it was just the patient's acuity. The data showed there were 541 transfers from the Emergency Department, which they believed only 11 were able to go with a BLS transfer crew and 76 with critical care level. The other 454 were believed to need paramedic level care. Gudgeon stated that there were concerns overall but 70-80 transfers needing critical care seemed reasonable. The rest may have been able to be covered by the Service. For now, the study will look at the data provided by Cvikota and the idea was pitched to reach out to other hospitals for their data, as it would be reasonable to believe that it would be comparable. The study will be able to show the staffing need and cost to the Service to know the true value of doing more transfers. The data currently isn't clear or clean, so the study results will be delayed in receiving it, with the new expectation for completion to be in the spring.
12. McGraw informed the Committee that the current estimate shows that the Service may not be eligible for the CDBG funding as the Low-to-Moderate-Income (LMI) threshold had not been met. It was noted that the data was incomplete, which meant there was a chance the Service could still qualify. McGraw stated that the Committee could accept the data as it was or choose to conduct a survey for those municipalities where the data is incomplete. It is possible this would show that at least 51% of residents covered by the Service are LMI and therefore qualify the Service for the CDBG funding. The numbers would first be run to see if there were enough people in the partially served townships to offset the current numbers. The numbers used by CDBG are from HUD income survey data or Census Tract data. The survey that the Committee would oversee would begin with a mailing consisting of two questions: number of people living in household and which category of income do they fall into. If a survey is not returned, then attempts would need to be made by going to their door. Clarson asked if it seemed probable to achieve the necessary 51%; Gudgeon stated that he just received township maps from the

Zoning department for residences and intends to run the numbers to see if there are enough residents in those area that if all were LMI, it would put the Service over the 51% requirement. Wallace asked how much money the Service would be eligible for should it work out; McGraw stated up to \$600,000, but there would be a need for lobbying to help the County Board see the need. Palmer asked how soon the survey process would need to begin; McGraw stated that it would need to be started and completed by early 2020. Severson inquired who would be in charge of the mailings and going door-to-door; McGraw stated that someone could be hired to oversee it, however he expected that there were enough people on the Committee that it wouldn't be unreasonable to keep it in-house. There would only be six municipalities that would need to be surveyed: Ithaca, Willow, Marshall, Eagle, Orion, Henrietta, and Yuba, and only those areas within the municipality that are covered by the Service would need to be surveyed. McGraw stated that no other data outside those discussed would be accepted. Jindrick stated that he didn't see any issue in knocking on some doors if needed to make this happen. Gudgeon said that regardless of the outcome, at least it can be shown that everything possible was done to make it happen. He would know more if it will be worth the time to try after he has a chance to go through the data from Zoning. McGraw informed the group that he had spoken with a Department of Administration representative who said they were willing to help the Committee through the process if they decided to pursue it. Palmer recognized a need to do some publicity ahead of the survey. The general consensus supported going through the survey process if it seemed feasible and worth the time. The Committee will be kept informed; Committee members were reminded that this is in the early stages and to not be 'freelancing' as there is a clear process that needs to be followed exactly.

McGraw also informed the Committee that in an effort to learn more about the CDBG survey, he also learned of another program that may be worth looking into through the USDA. The program would potentially grant \$200,000 to the Service for Facilities as a result of funding made available in response to recent federally declared disaster events, which the Service would qualify for with the 2018 flood event. This would be a grant, not a loan as the USDA representative had presented in a 2019 spring meeting. McGraw stated that he had only just found this and had not had the opportunity to do anything more than learn the basics and report to the Committee. There would be a pre-application meeting to discuss the program. Nicks made a motion for the Committee Chair to go ahead with scheduling a Pre-Application Meeting, seconded by Holets. Motion carried. Palmer stated that he would be interested in attending the meeting once scheduled.

13. Nicks made a motion to adjourn the meeting; motion seconded by Clarson. The motion carried; meeting adjourned at 20:20. The next meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2020.