

Richland County Joint Ambulance Committee
November 18, 2020
Minutes

Present: Brian McGraw, James Lingel, David Jelinek, Marc Couey, Scott Wallace, Sharon Schmitz, Mary Rognholt, Doug Duhr, Bob Holets, Jean Nicks, Darin Gudgeon.

Not Present: Kerry Severson, Verlin Coy, Glen Niemeyer, Steve Chupp, Brian Clarson, Terrance Jindrick.

1. Meeting was called to order at 1903.
2. Notification of the meeting had been made, and the agenda was posted.
3. Committee attendance was as noted above, with 10 members present in person and via Zoom.
4. A motion was made by Couey to approve the agenda as posted. Jelinek seconded it. Motion Carried; the agenda was approved.
5. A motion was made by Holets and seconded by Schmitz 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. For the Director's Report, Gudgeon reviewed the consolidated report from the Clerk's Office for the month of August. Due to an open position within the Clerk's Office, the other month's reports were not available. It was noted that the overtime paid out was higher due to an open fulltime position and two part-time members on leave. The schedule has also had multiple shift changes due to COVID-19 impacts. The charge for emergency lighting was for lights needed for the ambulance that are special to ambulances and had burnt out. The payment to the Fire Department for \$800 was for four lift-assist calls. It was noted that if the patient did not need to be transported, the minimum amount the service would lose was \$125 if the full charge of \$75 had been paid. However, Gudgeon noted that a back injury to an EMS member would cost more.

B. The Cvikota report was reviewed with a grand total of billed charges being \$602,368.01, payments of 254,580.81, Allowances/Write-offs at \$272,913.75, and an outstanding balance of roughly \$83,000.

C. The Ambulance Call Data report showed, from August 1 through October 31, there were 284 total ambulance calls. 11.27% were backup calls. 19.72% were not transported. Of those

transported, 5.63% were transported emergent to the hospital with 0.70% upgraded en route from non-emergent to emergent. Because of the significant impacts of COVID-19 on the schedule, it has been difficult to establish transfer crews. Gudgeon was not sure of the exact number but stated that there had been more that were turned down than those taken. He estimated about 20 had been turned down over the time shown in this report. Couey requested information on the number of calls outside of our service area.

9. McGraw updated the committee that the County Board had not voted on the Contract with Jewell & Associates as there was a complication with the paperwork; this issue was not due to anyone in the Ambulance Office or the County Administrator. It appeared there was support for the resolution; it was simply not able to be voted upon at that time. It will be on the County Board agenda for December. There is a meeting for select stakeholders scheduled shortly to map out the step-by-step process of the timeline and responsibilities.
10. There has not been a subcommittee meeting since the last Joint Ambulance Committee meeting.
11. The goals and priorities as established in 2018 were discussed. It was recognized that many of them had either been accomplished or had been worked on with updates recommended. IT was recognized that there were also likely other goals to add to this list now. Schmitz stated that she supported this being discussed further by the subcommittee to revisit the intentions and direction of the service. Couey also conveyed his support. The committee agreed to the subcommittee meeting in early 2021 to begin laying out goals for the future of the Service.
12. The 2021 budget had anticipated the purchase of two new cardiac monitors to replace two of the three monitors owned by the service. A Stryker representative brought a LifePak15 to demo for the Service members, and most showed support for this model. Stryker has a limited time offer of 0% interest over three years to assist in the purchase of all three simultaneously. The initial cost quoted for three was \$101,799 and includes a trade-in value for the current monitors. Some items in the initial quote are not necessary, so the price would likely drop to just under \$100,000. It was discussed that one could be bought outright as planned and the other two could be financed. This model of cardiac monitor would be compatible with some other AEDs in the community as well as the LUCAS Devices recently purchased by the Association. The only other cardiac monitor currently available for EMS is manufactured by ZOLL and costs approximately \$38,000 per unit. Adapters would be available for most AED pads to fit the LifePak. In order to utilize the Stryker financing option, it must be approved by the County Board in December. Other options for potentially funding the purchase of the new monitors were discussed, including grant possibilities, local foundations, and funds raised by the Association for this purchase. Schmitz made a motion to forward this on to Finance and Personnel for consideration, seconded by Couey. Holets made a motion to forward this on to Finance and Personnel so long as it was determined there was no need for bids. Schmitz and Couey both seconded the amended motion. Motion carried.

13. It was recognized that a Facility Construction and Design ad-hoc committee was needed to coordinate construction efforts to determine details such as paint colors, door knobs, quality and quantity. Couey recognized that members of the ad-hoc committee may need to be available at short notice. McGraw also pointed out the need for interest in the topic. It was agreed that there should be 3 members on the committee with two service members, one paid-on-call and one who works in the office to ensure the facility will need all needs. All committee and service members will have input, however, not all would be on the ad-hoc committee. It was agreed that this group likely would not be needed until construction begins. Gudgeon will ensure all service members are aware and all suggestions should be provided in writing to be considered. Anyone who is interested in being on the ad-hoc committee was directed to let Gudgeon know.

14. The committee sends their thanks to all service members for their willingness to adjust their schedules in order to cover 911 calls. Lingel made a motion to adjourn the meeting; motion seconded by Rognholt. The motion carried; the meeting was adjourned at 20:32.