

Minutes of Municipal EMS Board Meeting held on July 24, 2007

The July 24, 2007 meeting of the Municipal EMS Board was called to order by Dr. Michael Levy at 7:08am in Room 830, City Hall at 632 West 6th Avenue in Anchorage, Alaska. A quorum was not present.

Present

Dr. Michael Levy, Chair
Dr. Tim Silbaugh
Dr. Richard Brodsky
Mary Leemhuis, RN
Debbie Gariepy, RN

Excused

(Dr. Matthew Wolf, deployed)
Dr. Frank Sacco
Dr. Gilbert Dickie
Dr. Sami Ali

Absent

Dr. Keith Winkle
Sandy Coons, RN

AFD Staff

Craig Goodrich, Fire Chief
Michelle Weston, Deputy Chief (Admin)
Doug Schrage, Deputy Chief (Ops)
Erich Scheunemann, Assistant Chief (Ops)
Soren Threadgill, Assistant Chief (Liaison)
Stephen Poggi, Chief Financial Officer

Michael Crotty, EMS Battalion Chief
Jeff Dobson, Act. Assistant Chief (Training)
Pat Vincent, EMS Training Specialist
Molly Cullom, Contract Administrator
Rhodora Mallari, Data Associate

Guests

Denis C. LeBlanc, Municipal Manager
Bruce Bartley, Fire Chief, Chugiak VFD
Samantha Jedlicki, TransCare

Approval of Minutes from Last Meetings

Approval of the June 22, 2007 Board minutes was postponed by Dr. Levy due to lack of quorum.

Agenda Changes: No changes to Agenda.

Old Business

RMS Replacement Update: Presented by Michael Crotty, EMS Battalion Chief

- The remaining 2005 grant money has been used with purchase approved by the State. Computer hardware equipment at Data Systems awaiting programming. Received contract back from Legal yesterday with review recommendations; will update and send to ROAM for signature. ROAM has agreed to take our sample project timeframe and make it a contractual timeframe; good news for us. Hoping next month to have a signed contract and firm timeframe.
- Dr. Levy - AO 44 is at a resting state; will be revisited in September.

Reports

Administration: Presented by Erich Scheunemann, Assistant Chief (Ops)

- Chugiak received two Stryker Power Pro gurneys; they're in service now.
- New M31 radio finally installed; was placed in service last Wednesday.
- Girdwood FD Assistant Chief Perry is starting his 2nd retirement. There will be a replacement process in August.
- Acting Assistant Chief of Training Dobson, EMS BC's, and Chief Scheunemann meeting with Dr. Levy to cover EMS operational issues and CQI activities.

- EMS BC Sigsworth has taken over the CARES Program from Chief Scheunemann.
- Division Chief Threadgill has been designated as point of contact for all legal issues.
- FF/EMT Ryan Staten is still in Tacoma; should be back within a month.
- District Chiefs has received concerns from all three shifts PM's that moving Medic 4 to Station 14 has increased run volume. After some research, Senior Capt. Drozdowski and Chief Scheunemann found that across the board, all of AFD's medic rigs have increased call volumes and transports with the exception of Medic 4 which is down from last year. Chief Scheunemann adds they will dig deeper into the numbers to see if call volume increase is system wide and not just a summer influx. Station 4 is scheduled to reopen this winter.
- EMS BC's have completed their review for the Paramedic Currency Program. Approximately 30 paramedics within the department are subject to this program. AFD has about 3 paramedics per shift that are being carried over onto the next currency period. This is AFD's second phase in this program so won't see results until December when it ends. This program was developed by EMS BC Crotty which requires paramedics that don't normally rotate to an ambulance have 10 completed patient contacts per 6 month phase. At the end of the year, if contacts aren't met, it may result with a work plan created for the paramedic by the EMS BCs with Dr. Levy's input, possible suspension, or revocation of their MOA Certificate.
- CSP: Molly Cullom reviews document handed out at the Assembly Public Safety Committee meeting where APD spoke on the Public Inebriate issue and their service demand. AFD responds to public inebriate calls and is also involved from the standpoint of managing the CSP contract; the Committee discussed the topics of additional funding directed to the CSP contract to expand CSP van services, and also discussed a couple long term ideas to decrease the service demand and hopefully change the way these individuals live.
 - Dr. Levy compliments Molly Cullom, who did a great job of providing useful information to the committee. With increasing volumes, emergency room physicians, nurses, and emergency departments have to expect to see more people coming for clearances and less ability to send them back to CSP due to vans being pulled from circulation. Certainly APD is looking to diminish their time and calls in public inebriate service response.
 - Municipal Manager LeBlanc comments on a couple of the long term options: "Housing First" which the Administration is not favoring and a "Work Farm." This isn't just an Anchorage issue, but is an Alaska issue. We're trying to work with the Legislature, the Native Community and particularly the corporations to help with funding and as we approach winter, we'll have to get more forceful. Suggestions and participation are most welcome.
- Chief Bartley states new ambulance in Chugiak is in service. There was a programming issue with the radio, but that has been fixed and is responding on calls. They are still working on issues regarding acquisition of cell phones for their ambulances.

Medical Director's Report: Presented by Dr. Levy, AFD Medical Director

- A Paramedic has been reassigned; this was not due to job performance but was the request of the Paramedic.
- Chief Goodrich, Chief White, and Chief Weston have been very helpful in bringing resources forward to help with the dashboard. We want to make sure all information is bonafide in terms of what our starting and ending points are in the data that we're

providing. Senior Captain Jake Drozdowski is going through that, so it's a work in progress.

- HemCon bandage was used last month on a high profile case. It was not successful in stopping the bleeding. EMS BC Garbe had to put his hand within the wound to grab the vessels themselves and close them physically with his fingers which was successful. We received a wonderful letter from the trauma services at the Alaska Native Medical Center commending him for his life saving action. Per Mary Leemhuis, patient is doing fine. Dr. Levy adds that HemCon bandage was still the appropriate thing to have in place in that situation, but it wasn't successful nor would any conventional methods have been. This was an extraordinary event and worked out pretty well.
- Diverts has been high and constant overall in the community. Providence was 69 hours on divert in May, 58 hours in June; Alaska Regional was 96 hours in May and up to 99 hours in June; Alaska Native Medical Center went from 20 hours in May to 52 hours in June. This is something we'll need to keep track of.
- St. Elias facility has floated the idea of having AFD do intubations on patients but not transport the patients; haven't formally presented it, but they have been talking to Chief Threadgill. This is completely different from how we've done business before.
 - Dr. Levy states concern if AFD responds and provides a critical care level of an event, there would be no billable service. Dr. Silbaugh inquires if there are limitations that require billing only to transport. Sam Jedlicki states she believes the municipality can come up with an arrangement with St. Elias to bill for that service. AFD couldn't bill Medicare/Medicaid or private insurance because there is no transport, but you could bill the service and the supplies.
 - Chief Bartley adds that there is a non-profit Senior Center in Chugiak which CVFD responds to a lot, so important to keep that in mind whether a line has to be drawn at non-profit or the same.
 - Dr. Brodsky adds that due to AFD high volume calls, instead of calling AFD, St. Elias can develop an alternative arrangement by certifying their respiratory therapist to intubate or have physician responses.
 - EMS BC Crotty comments that many AFD PM's would view this as a system progression, not a detriment.
 - Chief Scheunemann adds that EMS BC's will be responding on AFD emergent calls to St. Elias for QI oversight and generally because of acuity of the patients.
 - Sam Jedlicki comments that the facility has 6 more months before they can get their Medicare certificate. 6-7 patients is all they can keep right now but they have somewhere around 65 beds.

Training: Presented by Pat Vincent, EMS Training Specialist

2 ACLS classes are coming up, and CPR recertification is almost completed. CPR course for 40-hour employees is being offered in August; this will give everyone the opportunity to get CPR training. Focus has been on training programming for next year.

New Business

There will be an inventory of all AFD assets, both Medical and Fire over the next couple of months. AFD is required to report all assets; this will affect Anchorage, Chugiak, and Girdwood in terms of inventorying all equipment.

Calls for the 'good of the order'

(None discussed)

Adjournment

The July 24, 2007 MAB meeting was informally adjourned at 7:45 am.