

Minutes of Municipal EMS Board Meeting held on September 25, 2007

The September 25, 2007 meeting of the Municipal EMS Board was called to order by Dr. Michael Levy at 7:05am in Room 830, City Hall at 632 West 6th Avenue in Anchorage, Alaska. Mr. LeBlanc provided the meeting attendance could be considered quorum with one member deployed.

Present

Dr. Michael Levy, Chair
Dr. Richard Brodsky
Dr. Keith Winkle
Dr. Sami Ali
Mary Leemhuis, RN
Sandy Coons, RN

Excused

(Dr. Matthew Wolf, deployed)
Debbie Gariepy, RN
Robert Bowler, FF/PM

Absent

Dr. Frank Sacco
Dr. Tim Silbaugh
Dr. Gilbert Dickie

AFD Staff

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

Michael Crotty, Chief Medical Officer
John Drozdowski, Sr Captain
Kevin Baker, FF/PM
Pat Vincent, EMS Training Specialist
Molly Cullom, Contract Administrator
Rhodora Mallari, Office Associate

Guests

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

Doug Green, Guardian Operations Mngr.
Don Wells, Guardian Clinical Director

Approval of Minutes from Last Meetings

There was a motion to approve the August 28, 2007 Board minutes; the motion passed. (Clerk's correction: Chief Threadgill should be recorded as present at the August 2007 MAB meeting.)

Agenda Changes:

- Guardian Proposal Update
- Data Efforts

Old Business

RMS Replacement Update: Presented by Michael Crotty, Chief Medical Officer

We're at the final contract with ROAM IT; kick-off meeting and implementation started on 9/18 and 19. Project timeline is three months, hoping for January. Will be shifting into project management weekly teleconference with the vendor and they're working hard to get our build of the software ready to go.

- Chief Bartley voiced concerns from Chugiak regarding narratives on the reports and its drop down menus; feels this will limit documentation and generally more automated or computerized medical reports are poorer quality. Dr. Levy responds

that he sees the quality of the reports from Anchorage, Girdwood and Chugiak and believes using a template model will improve the uniformity of reports substantially; also it will benefit for speed, accuracy and making them searchable. Levy notes authors will still have the ability to add free text information. Chief Crotty states Chief Bartley [Chugiak] will be provided a tablet soon so he can explore the program further.

Guardian Flight Proposal Update

Mr. Green, Representative of Guardian Flight gives update on their proposal for Type I license. Green states they have been taking steps to fit into the system that exists. Before application for a license, he notes it is necessary to establish an ambulance service from front to back, which they have done. One of the last steps is to submit a document to this Board for review, and obtain a letter of approval to attach to the application to the Fire Chief. Guardian plans to compete for the local non-911 call market and participate in a dispatch rotation for any patient that calls and requests a transport appropriate for private ambulance service (PAS).

- Dr. Levy inquires if there will be extra work or issues regarding the inter-play with dispatch. Chief Schrage notes it adds a layer of complexity due to a rotation and will have to be managed. Chief Schrage adds that AFD is in the implementation phase of equipping all ambulances, fire trucks and command vehicles with AVL (automatic vehicle locator), which enables units to communicate their status to dispatch without radio traffic – as a result anticipating most of the radio traffic will relate to the PAS operations. Private ambulance companies may be encouraged or required to provide AVL equipment as well.
- Dr. Levy inquires on the staffing of Guardian ambulances. Mr. Green states they will have a minimum of a PM on each unit and then either a PM, EMT I, II or III for the second person. This will be in addition to flight crews, where applicable.
- Dr. Levy requests clarification on status of the Type III license; Chief Weston adds the Type III will be on the Assembly agenda tonight. Mr. Green states that Guardian will be present, plans to continue the Type I application and will probably request the Type III issue be tabled for another month until the Type I process is finalized.
- Dr. Ali inquires about hospital/ER dispatches for PAS with a new additional provider. Mr. Green states that if the patient does not request a specific service, dispatch rotates. For dispatch calls where specific providers are identified, those would be directed as requested. However, for wheelchair patient transports, Green notes that if it is specified the patient needs to be transported by wheelchair van, then TransCare would be called.
- Dr. Ali notes the ACLS protocol in Guardian's orders need to be updated. Mr. Green admits the document came directly from current standing orders that the State had as a model and the medication list and dosages are AFD and TransCare. Dr. Levy asked if TransCare's orders are a mock-up of the MOM, Jedlicki states with the addition of a few extra medications of transfer patients. Dr. Levy stresses the need for consistency of the standing orders for all PAS's be adopted.
- Dr. Levy requests information on Guardian's training and education program and verification that the medical protocols can be implemented. Mr. Green notes

several TransCare employees were recruited, and training is being conducted currently; Green states the protocols in the standing orders are in the normal scope of practice of a licensed PM. Dr. Levy requests clarification as he did not hear Guardian's intent to train to the standing orders. In response, Mr. Wells (Guardian Clinical Director in Fairbanks) states he is responsible for Guardian Flight training and will transfer the training protocols from Fairbanks to Anchorage including weekly training sessions, lectures, hands-on. Mr. Wells states he will travel to Anchorage, guidelines will be transferred to Anchorage. Dr. Brodsky points out the standing orders are really for ALS, but Guardian is primarily a BLS service who's patients will need no intervention other than monitoring. Dr. Levy disagrees, notes that TransCare transports unstable patients and that training needs to be to the standing orders.

- Chief Weston states there was some expectation of a more formal presentation to the MAB by Guardian including an outline of the training plan and the standing orders. Mr. Winkle notes the MOA has made a decision to have standards maybe higher and more stringent than the State.
- Mr. Green notes the Ordinance is vague generally, and basically only says that proof needs to be provided by the applicant that the Board approved the standing orders. Green notes he went through the manual to make sure the scopes of practice were the same, and would have preferred to have a Word document that he could change all AFD's notations to Guardian Flight Service, but wasn't sure that was appropriate.
- Dr. Levy acknowledges Municipal Code 16.95 is not great but is the EMS planning document and states the Board's duty is to certify a Municipality-certified PM. How this is done is not clearly defined but is up to the Board to define; that could include that someone is proficient in a set of standing orders that the Board endorses. Dr. Brodsky asks about certifying EMT's; Dr. Levy states that an ALS-level operator in Anchorage has to be a Municipal-certified PM. Formerly TransCare was not allowed to provide ALS, but their scope was expanded with defined standing orders and training. Leemhuis asks if TransCare provides competency and recertification documentation on a regular basis. Levy asks Jedlicki when that was last provided; Jedlicki states runs are reviewed quarterly and any run that's ALS is reviewed and turned in to AFD. As for documentation, Jedlicki states TransCare applies for license every year and information on continuing education is turned in quarterly.
- Dr. Levy makes two suggestions: 1) the Board needs to approve orders that are consistent and the same as other private ambulance providers in town; 2) the Board needs to see a better outline of the Guardian training certification plan so it is clear the orders can be implemented. Leemhuis suggests PAS providers be required to provide a report to the Board such as quarterly that outlines training and competency evaluations, and plans.
- Dr. Levy asks if the Board knows enough about Guardian, has enough info on their training and that they will integrate into the current system. Brodsky points out Guardian states they will comply with everything and are following the requirements to become a PAS. Dr. Brodsky states some runs from their first year be reviewed; Leemhuis inquires about a probationary period.

- Dr. Levy asks if the Municipal Manager has any comments; Mr. LeBlanc notes the meeting probably have gone better and would have been more clear for Board decisions if Guardian had made a presentation or business plan with a company overview, training program outline, hours of operation, future planning, experience of the crews, information on types of rigs and other relevant information. Mr. LeBlanc notes an opportunity was missed to present this type of overview and compel the board to say ‘yes’. Mr. Green responds this information has been provided and approved by the Chief, also he has spoken by phone to Chief Scheunemann ten times the last month. Mr. Green comments the Board’s job is to approve the standing orders; other areas are covered by the designee of the Chief. LeBlanc comments the Mayor expects Municipal Boards to look through and beyond the literal words of the ordinance, see that entities are capable of performing and have the capacity.
- There was discussion about what is known about Guardian as a flight service, operating in other areas of the State. Brodsky notes he has heard they intend to participate in rotation and have two rigs online most of the time.
- Jedlicki states that while it is not addressed in the ordinance, with regard to dispatch protocols and the rotation – where TransCare has contracts with independent facilities they intend to uphold these contracts with facilities and private individuals. She also notes the ordinance is outdated at 20 years old, and does not adequately outline what should be taken into account and the effect on the EMS community.
- The following two motions were approved by the Board:
 - All type I PAS providers will comply with the same set of standing medical orders as approved by the Board.
 - Guardian is to present a training plan demonstrating how they are training to the standing orders and will be on probationary status for one year; also all Type 1 PAS providers will comply with the same set of certification and training standards and reporting requirements that will be established by the Board.
- Dr. Levy states Chief Scheunemann will provide Guardian the current private ambulance standing orders.

Reports

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

- AFD new hire testing is underway. BPAD’s are over; structured oral interviews this week with Chief’s Oral Board next week.
 - There were 690 qualified applicants; 130 of these were from 30 other states.
- Five new Dispatchers have started or will be starting before October 15.
- EMS Shift Meetings started up for the fall/winter yesterday and again today.
- First rollout of changes to standing orders for CHF, Captopril, and nasal Fentanyl rolled out yesterday. Protocols will be presented at October shift meetings and go into effect November.

- EMT's will begin providing patient care on the ambulances in 2008. EMS BC's will be developing training outlines and timeframe will also be determined by ROAM ePCR rollout, training, and full implementation.
- 2nd half of this year's currency requirements will be reviewed in November.
- FTS Vincent, EMS BC Garbe, and Girdwood FD are nominees for State of Alaska 2007 EMS awards (to be given out at the November symposium).
- 2008 Resuscitation Conference scheduled for June 6, 7, and 8 at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel. I don't have Chief Foster's list, but some examples of the speakers that Deb Gariepy lined up at this point includes:
 - Dr. Henry Lau, Chief of Pediatric Surgery, Trauma/Burn Center, John Hopkins Children's Center
 - Susan Ziegfeld, CRNP, Program Manager, Same as above
 - Barbara McLean, MN, RN, Nurse Intensivist and Critical Care Specialist from Atlanta, Georgia
 - Christine Smith Schulman, Trauma and CCRN, Portland, Oregon
 - Mike McEvoy, PhD, REMT-P, EMS Coordinator, Saratoga Co., Ny.; Instructor Critical Care Medicine – Albany Medical College (Fire EMS Editor-Fire Engineering Magazine)
- Chief Weston is acting as Fire Chief. Chief Goodrich is in Darwin, Australia; part of the Sister Cities exchange conference.
 - Chief Weston states ordinance to purchase land next to Station 5 in Spenard will be at the Assembly tonight. In about four years we'll be able to bond accreditation of Station 5 and expand Station 5.
 - New standards in our apparatus maintenance shop are being implemented; provides all the area-wide EMS maintenance for the ambulances for better documentation, better standards and quality improvement program with our engineers and firefighters that drive in terms of doing daily checks on the apparatus.
- Chief Schrage gives update on training. Since Chief Kiewik's retirement, position of Training Chief has been vacant with BC Dobson in an Acting role. Dobson's Acting role is now formally ended and Schrage has taken on those responsibilities mainly to provide direct oversight; objectives are to strengthen the connection between the EMS Battalion Chief field operations – what they observe in the field – and the training provided to complete that quality improvement loop. Also looking at some alternative training methods – provide training in the field or remotely from the Training Center to the providers out in Stations, so we can reduce our service time and increase our availability to the public. Starting next week, Chief Scheunemann will be acting Operations Chief for the next few weeks.
- CSP update: Molly Cullom states seeing numbers uptake; average census has been 40, reaching up to 48 in the last week. We're seeing some van pulls now in order to add Transfer Station staffing. Beginning October 1st, the winter level service will increase per the existing contract terms; this will add a van shift and a monitor in the evening. We are installing an external hard drive at the Transfer Station to provide 30 day archive video monitoring in case we need to go back and look at an event. Also AFD met with the MOA Health Department this

- Mayors Office update: Denis LeBlanc requested help and support with the Budget and Alcohol Tax.
 - Budget: Assemblyman Starr introduced a resolution to hold the 2008 budget at the same level as the 2007 budget. However the 2008 budget to be submitted will be \$30 million higher than the 2007 approved budget. If Starr's resolution became law, we would have to cut \$30 million worth of services such as the new Engine Company that the voters approved for Station 12 with 14 additional FF. Also there would be other engine services or truck companies within AFD that would be taken out of service, so to the point you have any influence on the Assembly, Mr. LeBlanc encourages input against this resolution.
 - Alcohol Tax: Assemblyman Allan Tesche is working to get signatures for a petition for an alcohol tax. Eighty-five percent of police and fire calls are for service involving alcohol. Right now we're at the tax cap, so we can't put additional vans in service for CSP. Mayor's intention with the 10% wholesale tax for alcohol would generate about \$11 million. We can't dedicate that money, but we can direct it. Mayor's intent is to put 70% of that \$11 million into public safety, including AFD, more money to CSP, to cops in schools, and to APD so we can do better in Fairview and Mountain View. The remaining 30% would go to social programs – assisting those social service agencies that really are the extension of public safety. They're in the midst of gathering those 7,000 signatures now.

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

- Code 99: The survival to hospital discharge for ventricular fibrillation arrest in the community was 40% in 2006. We had 2 people that had good outcomes. Last year we had 100% good, excellent outcomes, but that was a total of 10 patients out of the whole 154 people so we'll look at that more next month; we're doing a good job.
- Board Attendance: Dr. Levy notes this issue needs attention; when people come up for reappointment the MAB gets more latitude than some other boards -- but not complete latitude. He will forward letters to members on this topic, and notes attendance is scrutinized and there are some attendance records that are showing up short. People may lose their board seats if they don't show reasonable attendance, he will forward more details on Board attendance requirements.
- There have been a couple controlled substances issues lately [no loss, diversion, or theft], and Dr. Levy notes we did a good job in showing that we we're on top of it. There were some manufacturing problems with the Lorazepam which were identified and people were alerted, also involved DEA as a courtesy. There were one or two spot checks from DEA, and AFD passed with flying colors; doing a great job with it, so congratulations to the entire Administrative staff and all of our field providers.

Update on Data Efforts: Presented by John Drozdowski, Sr. Captain

- AFD is performing an organizational self assessment – conducting an analysis of the services provided in the community, identifying the gaps between what we want to do and where we want to be, and then making that part of a strategic plan. Drozdowski notes AFD wants to make sure the community understands the service we're providing; if the community is unhappy or wants more or less – that would be evaluated and would be involved in those decisions. Drozdowski notes he has been tasked as Dr. Levy's point of contact for all these data requests.
 - Drozdowski states the dashboard has been resurrected which used to have other measures in it; measures about status 1, 2, 3 which are subjective and need a EMS BC's or medically trained person to evaluate -- negotiating with Dr. Levy on that.
 - Looking to see better turnout times and hoping to see more accurate reporting. Drozdowski invites questions or ideas, states this is a work in progress. Once specific areas are identified, we can show where the gaps are and start the accreditation process.

Training: Presented by Pat Vincent, EMS Training Specialist

- New Hire testing is continuing this week.
- Wrapping up CPR renewals.
- AFD is hosting Sim Man training, and participants are coming from all over Alaska in October.
- Vincent requests to present 2008 training outline in November.

New Business

(None discussed)

Calls for the 'good of the order'

(None discussed)

Adjournment

The September 25, 2007 MAB meeting was adjourned at 8:40 am.