

Minutes of Municipal EMS Board Meeting held on November 27, 2007

The November 27, 2007 meeting of the Municipal EMS Board was called to order by Dr. Michael Levy at 7:02am in Room 830, City Hall at 632 West 6th Avenue in Anchorage, Alaska. A quorum was present.

Present

Dr. Michael Levy, Chair
Dr. Frank Sacco
Dr. Sami Ali
Dr. Matthew Wolf
Dr. Gilbert Dickie
Mary Leemhuis, RN
Sandy Coons, RN

Excused

Dr. Richard Brodsky
Debbie Gariepy, RN

Absent

Dr. Keith Winkle
Dr. Tim Silbaugh
Robert Bowler, FF/PM

AFD Staff

Craig Goodrich, Fire Chief
Doug Schrage, Deputy Chief (Ops)
Michelle Weston, Deputy Chief (Admin)
Erich Scheunemann, Assistant Chief (Ops)
Steve Poggi, Chief Financial Officer
Wade Strahan, Assistant Chief (Ops)

Jim Foster, Battalion Chief
Michael Crotty, Battalion Chief (EMS)
Anne Sigsworth, Battalion Chief (EMS)
Pat Vincent, EMS Training Specialist
Jeff Dobson, Battalion Chief (Training)
Rhodora Mallari, Office Associate

Guests

Denis C. LeBlanc, Municipal Manager
Terry Kadel, Assistant Chief, GVFD
Samantha Jedlicki, TransCare Manager
Kevin Wright, TransCare Supervisor
Doug Green, Guardian Operations Mgr.
Kit Dahlstrom, Guardian Flight

Brandon McDonnell, Guardian Flight
Michael Thompson, Guardian Flight
Ryan Hicks, Guardian Flight
Dr. David Cadogan, Alaska Regional Hosp.
Alex Sheshunoff, Anchorage Daily News

Approval of Minutes: The October 2007 minutes were approved.

Agenda Changes: None

Old Business

- Guardian application review near completion, awaiting letters from other MOA Departments.
- The updated Dispatch P&I is in MOA Legal for review.
- Dr. Levy states there is enthusiasm on area-wide EMS orders, more uniformity.
- Chief Schrage states new-hire testing is done with final count of 32; 12 are paramedics.
- Dr. Levy interested in moving forward to provide cooling in the field for cardiac arrest victims; will obtain protocol from Virginia and bring it to the Board early 2008.

Administration Reports: Erich Scheunemann, Assistant Chief (Operations)

- AFD Memo on Hemodialysis (HD) and the Peritoneal Dialysis (PD) provided; memo was given to the Paramedics at last EMS shift meetings and via email to the Department. For questions, refer to Dr. Levy.

- The new Medications Protocols was reviewed last week, a short quiz given to paramedics at EMS shift meeting; BC's will follow up with those not present at the shift meeting.
- Protocol Changes:
 1. Minor changes to the Chest Pain Treatment Protocol will be released in the next 2 weeks -- emphasizes more rapid placement of electrodes and transport of STEMI patients.
 2. Allergic Reaction Treatment Protocol will be re-written by EMS BC Garbe and then submitted to Dr. Levy.
- Kudos to FF/PM Jeremy Jones who received the IAFF Local 1264 EMS Provider of the Year award as well as the AFD Employee of the Year.
- Girdwood was 2007 State of Alaska Ambulance Service at the EMS Symposium.
- Additional speakers for the Resuscitation Conference in June: Dr. Lars Wik from Institute of Experimental Medicine in Norway.
- CSP Update: Chief Poggi thanks all who attended the Appreciation Day for CSP last week. Contract funding still level; with alcohol tax deferred, we're seeking funding sources to eventually increase services. Dr. Levy adds census numbers are lower over 2006 – 40's compared to 60's, probably due to warmer weather.
- Chief Weston announces Station 4 will re-open December 15th -- 2 months ahead of schedule. Medic 4, EMS Supply and Chief Medical Officers will be housed here. *Everyone is welcome to the Reception at 11:00am and to tour the facility.*
- Chief Goodrich states we are at the end of our budget process, Fire/EMS and Rescue are doing very well and the good relationship that we share is largely due to frontline people doing battle in our behalf. Thanks to Denis LeBlanc, the Mayor and city staff for their efforts and support.

Training: Pat Vincent, EMS Training Specialist

- Academy begins today - March 2008. EMS training is scheduled to start next Monday with 12 paramedics going through ALS, 12-leads, ACLS, Pediatrics Training, etc. The remaining 20 will go through a 3 week EMT course, tested in December.
- 2008 is a renewal year for the entire department; working on the 2008 training calendar. AFD is presenting a different way to train to cover ALS better. Paramedics will have wide variety of class choices, more hands-on and lectures required, training in stations.

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

- On patient destinations for HD and PD patients, ARH and PROV are the 2 hospitals that perform hemodialysis; neither hospital diverts for dialysis patients.
- There have been 2 EMTALA violations from a local hospital regarding ambulance patient turned away. Dr. Levy notes that the medics have been told (in the absence of an internal emergency) if they are on campus with the patient, they have the right and obligation to take that patient in, get a medical screening exam as well as provide adequate patient care.
- Dr. Levy notes an instance of successful resuscitation from cardiac arrest, but found it was more difficult than expected getting the IO out. When placing the IO, place it on the soft part of the bone.
- AFD has been approached to submit an application for participation in a field trial on ST-segment elevations and MIs; use of GIK (Glucose-Insulin-potassium) in prehospital setting for STEMI's. Approval is pending with the Chief and the City. This is a big trial with a lot

of momentum behind it; is an honor to be considered for inclusion. If there are no issues, an application will be sent and Dr. Levy will talk to the hospitals regarding responsibilities.

- EMS BC Anne Sigsworth, Dr. Richard Brodsky, Mary Thompson, (and Dr. Levy) have been entering data into the Utstein Report – the uniform reporting method for cardiac arrest. The overall cardiac survival rate for the non-filtered group is 11%. The selected group of people who had a bystander witness arrest, an initial rhythm of VT, and spontaneous circulation resuscitated and restored in the field have a 50% survival rate if they get to the hospital. The overall resuscitation for people with VF arrest is 33% as of November 7th – a couple outstanding, phenomenal numbers. Dr. Levy notes that MAB efforts and oversight, taxpayer funding, and all the heartache and misery that providers expend ends up giving us these absolutely world class numbers.
- After this meeting, sponsors from Chugiak and Girdwood will go through the most current version of the 2007 MOM to make sure all are in consensus; and will move forward for an area-wide document that we can all use.

New Business

- Update on ROAM: Chief Crotty states all the expiring grant money being expended. Focus is on hardware deployment and to provide demonstration to paramedics by the December shift meeting. The software doesn't reflect our local standards out of the box, so we have to come up with some solutions on patient labeling and patient status. Dr. Levy adds we're looking at modifying methods by which we alert the hospitals in terms of status 1, 2, 3; input on this is welcome. An alternative is to keep Status 1, 2, and 3 but come up with a more rigid definition for them. Both Dr. Levy and Chief Crotty agree that the best time to make these changes is when rolling out the software because we are changing how AFD medics and EMT's will document patient care, and will be going to the hospitals to educate them.
- MOA Municipal Manager Denis LeBlanc notes an Assembly vote tonight on the Mayor's 2008 budget.
- APD commenced their Academy yesterday with 32-34 people.
- Kudos to MOA Safety Officer Mike Schowen who will be leaving effective tomorrow and to Risk Manager Glenn Smith. For 3 years in a row the MOA premiums for workers comp, auto liability, and general liability have been reduced.

Calls for the 'good of the order': None

Adjournment: The November 27, 2007 MAB meeting was adjourned at 7:43 am.