

Region 4 EMS Council, Inc.

Region 4 EMS Council Meeting Minutes October 11, 2011 Salina Regional Health Center, Salina

Those attending included:

Pam Kemp, Region 4 Coordinator
Wendy Gronau, Lincoln County EMS
John Hultgren, Dickinson County EMS
Dave Beam, Dickinson County EMS
Shannon Meier, Jewell County EMS
Rob Pengra, Salina Fire / EMS
Curtis Osland, Dickinson County EMS
Branden Hurt, Dickinson County EMS

Nathan Brunner, Dickinson County EMS
Rod Rees, Ellsworth County EMS
Dennis Coltsden, NC Regional Coordinator, KDEM
Greg Brockway, Salina Fire / EMS
Michelle Giroux, SRHC Trauma Services Coordinator
Charlie Grimwood, VP Regional Development
Jake Breeding, MD

The meeting was called to order by President Dave Beam at 1000. Introductions were made due to guests at the table. Guests included the SRHC staff and personnel from Dickinson County that are working through their service's professional development.

Discussion with SRHC Staff -

Michelle Giroux, Trauma Services Coordinator discussed the process of moving towards level 3 trauma certification and changes in trauma care based on performance improvement processes. Both her and Dr. Breeding emphasized the importance of EMS as part of the trauma team. If there are any concerns they should be brought to the attention of the trauma services personnel after the call through the review process.

EMS Personnel asked SRHC to share some of the key trauma triage criteria the hospital wants to receive from responding crews. That will be used to educate the EMS providers. Trauma Room 4 is the dedicated trauma room. EMS personnel need to stay behind the red line on the floor in that room to allow the trauma team full access to the patient. Wendy asked if the local EMS director could be included in the quality improvement reviews of trauma patients.

The question was asked if other EMS agencies would ever be allowed to call in and activate the trauma team or if that would always only be Salina Fire / EMS. Concern was voiced by one local EMS director that it was insulting to other agencies to be excluded from the process. Nurse replied that they based their triage development process on what the level 1 centers are doing.

Another concern voiced by EMS is the issue of getting reports back from the trauma centers regarding patient outcomes. Wesley med center has recently sent a memo to EMS agencies that they will no longer allow EMS to call and receive patient updates. Unsure what their intent is with that memo.

452-4727 is the trauma control direct phone number to contact trauma services at Salina Regional. Follow up calls should be made to the services within a reasonable amount of time giving an update on the patient condition.

Charlie Grimwood discussed how the trauma system has taken the lead and other hospital services are improving by following the lead of trauma services. He predicts rapid change in overall policies that will result in improved services to patients overall.

John Hultgren asked if Salina Regional was ever going to do anything with STEMI alerts. Mr. Grimwood indicates there has been some delay in implementing the STEMI alerts. Discussion included the benefit of the STEMI alert to patient care and if EMS has to make a choice where to take a patient they may opt to go a few extra miles to get the patient to a facility with an active STEMI program vs. to a closer facility without such program.

The SRHC personnel were asked to bring information to local EMS agencies as to what services are available. Local hospitals don't always communicate with EMS about those kinds of notices.

EMS personnel report that the inter-facility admittance issue has improved. EMS personnel are no longer required to wait in the hallway with patients while admittance process is completed. Patients are getting moved into rooms right away and EMS personnel are no longer being asked to do the registrations.

Wendy asked if there would be a way to ensure that all hospital personnel understand that EMS can only release patients to an RN or higher. Often an aide will try to assume care for the patient. The EMS personnel asked the hospital staff to make sure they inform EMS if local hospitals are not faxing face sheets as needed. EMS can intervene with local hospitals to make sure that gets done so pre-admission is easier.

The SRHC staff asked to be included in the December 13 meeting in Minneapolis. They will update the EMS providers on the STEMI process as well as the trauma process.

Approval of Minutes of August 2011 meeting – MSA Gronau / Rees

Approval of Minutes of September 13, 2011 Special Meeting – approved with August 2011 motion.

Treasurer Report – MSA Rees / Gronau

Old Business:

- Follow up on Special Meeting in September – Dave reported that the group looked at the data layers presented by Jessica. Pam will call Beloit and see what we can do with the map book idea. Include the paper copy as well as an electronic copy and an on-line version that (using the Levinger system to bind the books). Use the lists in the special meeting notes as to what to include in the lists. Also would like to develop a regional protocol for deployment of mutual aid – requests etc. Local services would have an obligation to update things with the contractor. Coordinate with the web master to develop the tool if needed.

New Business:

Election of Regional officers – Marvin was not present due to a family emergency. Tabled due to Marvin's absence.

Committee Reports – deferred unless specific business to report

- **Data Collection / KEMSIS– Beam-** Not a whole lot going on. Dave had conversation with Steve about data back up and continuity of operations planning and some concerns about that issue. Conversation included questions about what the state is doing with the data being collected. Dave is not sure what the plan is for KSBEMS to integrate the other data collection systems into the KEMSIS system. Concern is that most of the big services are using something other than image trend and the data from those services is not going into KEMSIS. There is still concern that the requested "User Group" meetings have not occurred as we had hoped. There have been two meetings, but we still are not meeting on a regular basis and meeting with peers to develop and share best practices and tips etc. To be successful the system should be user driven instead of just feeding data to the federal level. There is concern because Joe is the only person in the BEMS office that can facilitate the data management.
- **Educator Workgroup –Gronau; Zadina –** no meetings have been held. Board of EMS voted down the legislative package this year. That package contained the language needed for the changes in the education process. KEMSA may address the issue at their strategic planning process. Dave will contact the KEMSA President regarding our interest in the process.
- **Regional Homeland Security Council – VanBlaricon; Hultgren –** met last month and discussed the on-going projects. The RHS has undergone a federal OIG audit. As a result the NC RPC has issued a purchasing moratorium until they receive some clarification from the state fiscal agent (KHP). Did talk in one of the projects about possibility of Charlie Horse patient movers. Dave asked if services that did not have a dedicated EMS trailer would want the Charlie Horses due to their size and difficulty storing and transporting. Those present that do not have trailers don't think they would want the item. They agree that it should be another item that is deployable through mutual aid requests. Dennis Colsdon reported on the RHS and statewide project about the credentialing system. KDHE is determining the standards for credentialing of medical personnel. The cards will be issued at the county level and the local level is the point at which the final verification is done. Much discussion about the benefits and the pitfalls of the system with all agreeing that it is not perfect. EMS agencies are encouraged to participate with their local Emergency Management agencies on the credentialing process.
- **ARC/KRAF grant /– Beam –** have been trying to set up a fall meeting but it has not yet been set due to busy schedules. Some issues still on the table are how to address the big ticket items like monitors and

another item is the tracking and accountability of the items awarded. These could be part of the service inspections or is there another way to track the equipment. Questions about what should be done if equipment isn't being used or if a service closes and has issued equipment in their inventory. Many complicated questions.

- **Regional Trauma Council** – Eastes – Patrick not here.
- **KDHE / KRAF / KSBEMS grant updates** – Beam -
- **BEMS Update** – Beam / Gronau; others – the above information regarding the legislative process. Chris Alexander is working on infection control legislation and KDHE isn't ready for that to move forward yet. Did move to continue to approve EMT-I courses. See the BEMS website for dates and details. Worried about the testing process drawing out the testing deadlines, especially the EMT-I level so they won't have to be testing EMT-I's after a specified date. Some discussion about issuing numbers to first response groups to track them but they don't have the authority to do so, it is on hold. Lengthy discussion on the type 5 regulation of personnel on EMS aircraft.
- **MERGE Update** – Hultgren / Beam – there will be a MERGe meeting next week in Parsons. Still conversations with Region V going on about joining MERGe.
- **Regional Testing Update** – Debesis – Ed was not present, no discussion.
- **Website** – Beam - no printout of activity requested. Be sure to send updated contact information to Mary as it occurs. Dave suggests to put unapproved minutes on the website so members can review them if they want to. Dave will get updated copies to Mary to update. Event calendar is bare. Send events to Mary also send pictures of events, training etc. to get the website updated routinely.

Round Table Discussion – All (as time allows)

Salina Fire / EMS – got the bid back on digitalization of the logo and it is \$90. The vendor won't do a sample until the \$90 is paid. Salina Embroidery Works is the vendor. Dave will check with other vendors and bring back ideas. Open house is this weekend for fire safety week to show off equipment etc. Internal promotional testing is going on. Waiting on a new unit to be delivered, it will be equipped with a lift for obese patients.

Dickinson County EMS – started a new EMT class tomorrow night in Abilene. Dave is working with a new computerized tool kit. Talk to Dave if you have questions about how it works for scheduling; forms etc. The KEMSA Administrator Society will be doing another winter workshop and will be sending info on it soon. It will be in Dodge City after the first of the year. Part of the topic may be community para-medicine. Another topic of discussion may be regionalization of medical directors and EMS administration.

Ellsworth County EMS - just finished EMR transition and are starting EMT transition.

Lincoln County EMS – they are in the middle of an EMT class which is going well. Doing the pink shirt thing for breast cancer awareness month and Wendy showed off the shirts.

Jewell County EMS – received 12 lead Zoll and will be on the trucks as soon as training completed.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 1440 hrs. MSA Pengra / Rees.

Please be sure to notify the Region 4 office of your correct e-mail address! Help us “GO GREEN!” eliminate paper by accepting meeting notices etc via e-mail!

2011 Meeting Schedule –

- December 13, 2011 Minneapolis EMS