

**EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL (EMSAC) MEETING
MINUTES
July 20, 2023
Virtual / In-Person Attendance**

Members Present: Tim Meyer, Tim Blasl, Cheryl Flick, Ron Lawler, Kylie Nissen, Adam Parker, PJ Ringdahl, Kari Enget,

Members Not Present: RJ Benth, Bert Anderson,

DoH Representation: Chettie Greer, Christine Greff, Kerry Krikava, Chris Price, Mary Waldo, Rocksanne Peterson

Others Present: Corrie Geurts, Lynn Hartman, Joe Lies, Lindsey Narloch, Ken Rensch,

Welcome and Introductions

Welcome and introductions were made for all present in person as well as via Teams.

Approval of Minutes: January 19, 2023

Motion was made: Approve minutes from January 19 2023, as written.

Motion by Kari Enget; second PJ Ringdahl.

No further discussion: motion carried.

Council Membership

Discussion/Update: There are currently four open positions within the Council. A push was made to fill the vacant position, information was put out in a newsletter. There was one response; Ken Rensch applied to be the ALS representative.

If the committee approves Ken Rensch as the ALS representative, Chris Price will need to write a letter of recommendation to the Health and Human Services (HHS) Commissioner. The Health and Human Services commission will appoint Ken to the council.

Motion was made: PJ Ringdahl motioned to advance Ken Rensch to EMSAC; second, Kylie Nissen.

All in favor: Ayes have it, no nays. Motion carried.

There was also a discussion regarding possible candidates for the other positions on the council. A couple of suggestions for the physician position was a state health officer from HHS or Dr. Cassidy. The member at large and QRU representatives are a couple of positions that were discussed so that we could have a wide variety of stake holders.

NDEMSEA Legislative Update

Discussion/Update: Adam Parker reported the legislative session was positive for EMS. There was an EMS study that came out of the session. The plan for the study is to come out and present what the EMS system should like and bring ideas together.

The following bills regarding ambulance services passed this legislative session:

- HB 1294: Distribution of State Financial Assistance to Eligible Ambulance Service Operations
- HB 1365: Rural Ambulance Service District Levies and Ambulance Operations Areas
- HB 1477: Rural Ambulance Service Districts

Bills regarding ambulance services and funding can be found here:

<https://www.ndlegis.gov/assembly/68-2023/regular/subject-index/ambulances.html>

Rules

Discussion/Update: Chris Price gave an update on the EMS administrative rules. There are two public hearings scheduled; the public hearing for Ambulance Chapters will be on September 18, 2023, at 2:00 pm and the public hearing for 33-36-01 will be on September 19, 2023, at 9:30 am. A review and changes will be done after the conclusion of the public hearings. The rules will go into effect by January.

Rural EMS Counts – Lindsey Narloch

Discussion/Update: Lindsey gave an update on the Rural EMS, she stated there are some discrepancies between rural and urban care. She also mentioned transitioning next year to with Jamestown Regional Medical Center. Christine Greff also recommended they with the Systems of Care.

Committee Reports

- **Education Grant – Ron Lawler**
 - Does not have a report will report next meeting.
- **EMS Plan – PJ Ringdal**
 - PJ gave an update regarding the EMS plan and the topics that are being discussed for the plan. Some of those topics are workforce, medical direction standards, funding formulas, substations and their purpose, reimbursement for Medicaid, quality, data, education, having a community model where they receive basic training and dispatching them, and reasonable response times. More topics will be added. By the next meeting she will have them in a presentation.

Workforce

- Average age, 41; median is 39; most EMT's are 55. 10% over 60.
- Three providers are over 80 years. Trending older, from an age standpoint.
- Concern there is not any younger people coming up or making it a career. We are able to find 1300 that are not making anything. Questionable whether our data is accurate. Every agency that uses the grant uses it for personnel in the budget. How do we get people to participate, all the gain is in the urban areas versus the rural areas. Chris spoke about the workforce and what is impacting the emergency workforce.
- Tim talked about the number of paramedics graduating in MN, and what Sanford is doing to attract emergency personnel. PJ reported that they haven't found anything to successfully recruit personnel.
- Will the communities be willing to pay for emergency services? The council discussed possible steps that may have to be taken to improve the workforce for emergency personnel. There is not a single solution for any emergency entity. Many feel they need better reimbursements, just need to keep working on this. North Dakota is doing something regarding it and plans to do more. Our legislature is willing to help with funding but also finding other options or sources. There is no easy fix.

SIREN

- Are rural EMS ready for SIREN? The radio subsidy is available through grants to counties to schools, Chris reported this will have to be implemented by 2025. A lot of radios have been purchased.

HRL/DEMS Update – DEMS Staff

Discussion/Update:

EMS for Children Program Update:

- Ambulance recognition program up in September.
- Chettie talked about Andy the remote-control ambulance.
- Looking for an emergency room doctor to be on the EMSC advisory committee.

EMS System Update: Kerry Krikava gave an update on the EMS System activities.

- QRU licensure was done online through Big Picture.
- Staff have started putting new people in the new Big Picture system.

- Personnel will be able to print their own badges.
- Kerry mentioned the passing of Tami Petersen.

Stroke and Cardiac System Update: Christine Greff gave an update on the Cardiac and Stroke System activities.

- Save the Date: Cardiac/Stroke Conference is on October 25-26, 2023.
- Working on revisions for the Stroke Readiness Guide.
- Christine talked about the Hospital Designation Guide, performance improvement projects, BEFAST, grant money for print education materials, etc.
- Lindsey Narloch and Christine discussed the quality measures of the BEFAST and stroke data. Tim Meyer asked if this would be something for Stroke Committee look into. Christine stated they have already looked at the data. Tim feels they should work with the medical director.
- Christine is looking for a committee member from EMSAC for the following committees: Cardiac Ready Community Committee, Stroke and Cardiac Task Forces. Christine feels it would be beneficial for Lindsey Narloch to come to the meetings. It was discussed appointing someone from the council to Stroke and Cardiac Task force. Kari Enget stated she would be on the Cardiac Ready Community Committee. RJ Benth was recommended for the Cardiac Task Force and Ken Rensch for Stroke Task Force.
- Christine gave update on Cardiac Ready Hospitals and Cardiac System of Care quality measures. PJ is concerned there are two projects (Rural EMS Counts/Cardiac System of Care) that are working on the same thing and creating different types of education. She would like the educational information to be the same or consistent.

Trauma System Update: Mary Waldo gave an update on the Trauma System activities:

- In the process of updating trauma system plan, would like to have that done by the end of the year.
- Trauma conference will be held October 4 – 5, 2023.

EMS Update: Chris Price

- Chris spoke about the Turtle Mountain Tribe in Dunseith submitting an ambulance service application and doing a needs assessment. The council discussed Turtle Mountain Tribe Ambulance; the problem is the sustainability of service.
- Chris gave an update on the boundary line with Kidder Co.
- Chris also gave an update regarding the Big Picture project. He also stated that your national data will be linked with our EMS database once we have the issues corrected.
- Chris has received authorization to add a Helmsley position for as long as the grant is available. The position will be for 9 months. He will get the information out.

Grant Update

Discussion/Update: Chris Price and Deb Dutchuk gave a brief update on the status of the current grants and grant funding.

REMSA: Every agency that applied has received funding. There were only two agencies that didn't spend all of their funding.

Training Grant: Traditionally, we turned back most of it. This we spent 91% of the grant. Maybe in the future we will see that we have overspent on the training grant. Paramedic training spending has increase. We require a 2-year commitment.

Other Business

EMS Study meeting will be held on August 31, 2023.

Guardian flight does not have a rotary flight in North Dakota any longer. Kylie stated losing that provider is crucial to rural health care.

The next council next meeting is October 19, 2023, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

Adjourn

Motion was made: Adam Parker to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.