

**REGION III EMS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

January 14th, 2011
Wichita/Sedgwick County EMSS Office of the Medical Director

CALLED TO ORDER 10:01 AM

IN ATTENDANCE: Terry David, Dalene Deck, Randy Easter, Debbie Glenn, Rita Gumm, Ira Hart, Grant Helferich, Darrel Kohls, Mike Loreg, Scott Metzler, Chad Pore, Shelia Rupp, Steven Smith, Justin Waite, Rusty Walter, Frank Williams, Mark Willis

EXCUSED: Dan Jones, Chy Miller, Glenda Owens, Jon Friesen

UNEXCUSED: Kris Hill

GUEST(S): Duane Billinger, Jeb Burress, Jason White

ITEM 1: Call to Order

Dalene Deck called the meeting to order.

ITEM 2: Approval of Minutes

Copies of minutes from the October 15th, 2010 Board meeting were distributed for review. A motion was made by Chad to approve the minutes, Rusty seconded the motion. No discussion or changes noted. The motion passed as presented.

ITEM 3: New Business

A letter of resignation from the Board has been received from Chy Miller. Grant made a motion to accept Chy's resignation from the Region III Board of Directors. The motion was seconded by Justin, and passed without further discussion.

The KRAF Grant cycle is up and going. Darryl is again the representative for Region III. No changes have yet been identified to the process from that of the previous cycle of funding. A schedule of meetings has been set, with an anticipated April deadline to have things in order to present at the April KBEMS meeting.

ITEM 4: Homeland Security Update

Mike Loreg provided the update. It was noted that the group is asking for the region to put funds into the 800 Communications statewide system. The group is also in the process of seeking a *Memorandum of Understanding* with the State in order to assure funds for this system are paid out specific to the purpose of expanding 800 communication capabilities within Kansas.

ITEM 5: Executive Director Report

Terry provided the update. The EMT Transition Course previously scheduled with SCEMS has been placed on hold following the survey results indication that there is not an immediate need for the class. A question was asked with regards to the existence of miscommunication or lack of understanding of the necessary transition elements at the EMT level. It was noted that, at the last KBEMS meeting, a decision was made to not approve any transition courses until after the temporary regulations are in place. A short discussion regarding the implications and communication deficiencies took place.

Homeland Security efforts of the South Central and North East regions awarded some \$500,000 to a project designed to come up with an organized response plan and resource listing. Of those agencies who responded to the RFP to complete the project, it was narrowed down to three vendor possibilities. IDA's composition was the chosen winner. The intent is for IDA to develop an all inclusive emergency management response plan with comprehensive resource capabilities listings.

Terry has received a letter asking for his involvement to serve on the Crisis City Advisory Committee. The group met on January 6th. It was noted that Crisis City has turned into a very comprehensive disaster training center. People from all over the country are coming to utilize the training area. Terry has accepted the request for his service and the group expects to meet on a quarterly basis.

The interoperability focus (800 Radios) project update on Region III ambulances was provided. The project is 99% complete. Radios have been purchased, with some still in the programming process. Not all radios are on the trucks yet. MOU template difficulties have been the major cause for the hold-up in this project.

MERGE dispatching was briefly touched on. It was noted that a contractual change will need to occur, and the state may want to be involved on the Emergency Management side of things.

Air Gas has refunded the region \$2027.60 for masks and other items that had been ordered by the Region as part of the KDHE funded moneys for Pandemic Flu. The items were unavailable at the time of purchase and have never been received by the Region.

It was noted that the Medicare Relief Extensions are good through December 31st, 2011. The state will lose millions of dollars as a result of this. The permanent legislation should be filed sometime later this month.

An update on the Mini Lark Project was provided by Terry. Gary Tolle is the primary manager of this project. Money has not yet been paid out due to the request for more data and additional product quotes. The project currently calls for \$129,846 in equipment costs and \$22,823 in exercise/drill costs.

The Fire/Medical Work Group's meeting for this week was rescheduled to February 15th. Mark indicated that the IAFC has a primary initiative for the development of statewide mutual aid agreements. Jon brought the medical component into those conversations at the last work group meeting. The KDEM demonstrated a mutual aid database at that meeting as well. With Mark showing the KRAP database complete with MERGE locations and information. It was noted that a concern was voiced at the work group meeting about the future existence of FORCE. KDEM is willing to work with existing models for MERGE and FORCE in order to build upon these. Jessica from KDEM met with Leroy (NFEMS) to review and look at web-basing the database information.

The Medical Director Workshop was held on November 5th. The overall meeting attendance and feedback was positive. A drafted AEMT Medication Formulary has been distributed for review as a result of the November workshop and subsequent meeting.

ITEM 6: Board of EMS Update

Air medical regulations are on the agenda for February. All were encouraged to review the proposed updates/changes being suggested to these regulations. There will also be an Operations Meeting at the February KBEMS meeting that will focus on education. Currently there are plans being formulated to separate the AEMT from the initial transition phase in order to progress forward with the EMT and EMR transitions. The Investigation Committee is looking at updating existing policies to include removal of the audit piece for CE hours.

Chad inquired about the apparent lack of communication from KBEMS to EMS Directors. It was asked if the Region could approach the Board with a letter to encourage an open and ongoing communication process. A short discussion ensued regarding formal letter drafting versus placing of notes from KBEMS meetings on the Region III website. Chad motioned to have Jon draft a letter to Steve and the KBEMS Chairperson aimed towards implementation and enhancement of communication processes to EMS Directors and Region Board of Directors. Mike Loreg seconded the motion. Following further discussion, the motion passed.

ITEM 7: Mid America Regional Council Presentation

Jason White with MARC provided an overview on the EMS Medicare Tax Project outcome of efforts to enhance reimbursement and revenue for medical services in Missouri. A variety of handout reference materials were provided to the members of the Board. Jason indicated that, in order to be of assistance in Kansas, he would need data to complete statistical analysis on, to include 2010 gross emergency receipts and Medicaid transport rates. The consensus was that utilization of Survey Monkey is the ideal means to gain the necessary preliminary data elements required to start the review of areas for improvement in reimbursement of services. The question was asked as to if this is of interest for Region III, which was affirmed by those present. Grant asked that Jason write up a synopsis to post on the Region III website to explain his work and the rationale behind these efforts to truly gain involvement of the EMS services. Jason indicated that at the current time, this is not possible.

ITEM 8: MERGe Update

The next MERGe team meeting will take place next week in Lincoln County. It will include a table-top exercise that is expected to occur during the afternoon segment of the meeting.

****A working lunch took place at this time with a presentation provided by "First Responder" over lunch.****

ITEM 9: Financial Report

The financial report was provided by Debbie Glenn. A motion was made by Mark to accept the financial report provided; seconded by Rita. No further discussion was made. Motion passed.

ITEM 10: Educator Development Task Force Update/Education

Chad provided the education planning update. There will be a meeting next Friday to discuss skills examination and other various items. A short discussion took place regarding the draft sheet release and examiner requirements. Terry noted that the existing contract for testing services is set to expire July 31st, 2011. It was asked about the other terms of the contract. Following discussion, it was decided that Terry would draft a letter to the Budget Committee in order to obtain a copy of the contract on behalf of Region III.

It was further noted that the current positions for Chair/Vice Chair of the EDTF are up for appointment. Chy's resignation also offers a current position as a representative for Region III on the EDTF. Chad made a motion for Mike Loreg to replace Chy as one of the Region III EDTF representatives; seconded by Rita. The motion passed without further discussion.

The December 11th "webinars" were successful, resulting in several new attendees. Darryl mentioned that their appeared to be too long of a wait/delay for registration. Following a brief discussion it was noted that greater success might be achieved if the webinar information was sent out and registration opened immediately.

ITEM 11: Meeting Dates/Locations for 2010

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 8th, 2011 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Wichita/Sedgwick County EMSS Office of the Medical Director, Wichita.


Motion to adjourn made by Frank; seconded by Justin. Meeting adjourned at 1:06 pm.



Jon E. Friesen, Chairman



Terry David, Executive Director



Shelia Rupp, Secretary

Darren Decker VICE CHAIR