

**Tarrant County EMS Providers Organization
& North Central TX Regional Advisory Council Zone 7
Minutes from February 17, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Forrest Broom at 0934.

The minutes from October were approved by a verbal Aye with none opposed.

OLD BUSINESS

There is no RAC representative to give an update.

GETAC will be next week. In the November meeting Pete Wolfe made recommendations to change some things in provider rule 157.11. Please keep a close eye on that. There was nothing brought up at the Medical Director's meeting.

There are concerns over licensing procedures for EMS providers.

Larry asked Steve to get the JPS meeting pushed forward. If anyone is having issues, please contact Steve Lemming. Initially things were better but now they seem to be slipping back. Concerns are that providers will be patted on the head and sent on our way. Administration needs to be present so that changes can be effectively made.

Suggestions for who needs to be invited to the meeting are:

- Dr. Gary Langston – director for the ER
- Dr. Bobby Johnson – liaison for EMS
- Dr. Chuck Webber – board of managers
- Dr. Gary Floyd – board of managers and EPAB board
- Robert Earley – CEO
- Kathy Humphres – trauma nurse coordinator
- Nursing manager for the ER
- Nursing manager for emergency services
- MedStar representative
- AMR representative
- Chest pain center coordinator
- Stroke center coordinator
- No** CMS representative

Deputy Chief Morris is concerned that JPS problems were consistently bad before but is inconsistently bad now. It may be the personality of specific problems.

Pat Elms suggested a PRN nurse when the EMS line is out the door. JPS seems to be bucking the problem when that is suggested. The problem may be that no nurse wants to do triage. It seems they are focused on their Level I trauma application.

Pat suggests a meeting first.

Most EMS systems are seeing problems with the JPS system that may put a patient's health or best interest at risk with the current system. Underlying issue is to get the EMS providers back to their systems faster.

JPS attitude seems to be if you are not MedStar or AMR, you don't matter to their system. MedStar and AMR don't seem to want to get involved with the issues.

Dr. Phillips thinks a meeting is a good idea. Knowing JPS is a Level II trauma center and working toward a Level I certification, he believes they would be open to resolving issues.

Pat Elms would like statistical issues for JPS to take to the meeting. The problem with inviting departmental personnel is that you might get the low person on the totem pole that doesn't have the authority to fix specific issues.

Dr. Phillips will contact Dr. Webber to find out who the group needs to invite.

A motion was made to draft a letter to send to the JPS personnel inviting them to the next meeting. A second was made and the motion passed with a show of hands with none opposed.

EMS licensing update – ALL battery operated items on an ambulance must have some sort of back up. A plug in is considered a back up. A V-Vac is considered a back up for suction. The back up CAN be a manual replacement if it can be used on pediatrics as well as adults. You can write for individual exceptions to the rule. It would take a rule change or policy statement to fix the rule. Exception letters must be placed in each truck's protocols.

Pay particular attention to the fees for provider renewal. Read the application carefully or call DSHS.

If you have a question about a particular device, contact Pat Elms and he'll get an answer for you or feel free to contact Maxie.

You must display your name, certification and company name on your uniform.

Helicopters are included in the DSHS rule.

INDIVIDUAL DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Hurst – The new station is still not open. They are still waiting on furniture and odds and ends.

Eules – nothing to report

PHI – Jacob Johnson is going to GETAC. Let Ian know if he needs to go to another day/meeting. They have 2 pilots coming back. They will be flying some CVA's to HMF. Let Ian know if PHI can do a PR for you.

Mansfield – Feb 24th – 27th will have a Child Passenger Safety Seat Class. AMLS on April 17th. Driver March 21st. They have 2 new ambulances in service. Station 4 opened last Tuesday. There will not be an ambulance here due to staffing issues.

Everman – nothing to report

Azle – The new engine will be in service soon. The specs are in on the new ambulance. They are expecting delivery in September. They are promoting 3 to engineers. The population is about 30,000 in their service area.

North Richland Hills – trying to keep their head above water.

Keller – They will be opening a new station in the first week of April.

Bedford – They took delivery of a 105' ladder. Station 3 add on is complete. Mid March will be taking delivery on a new AEV ambulance. They are fully staffed.

DSHS – EPAB is revamping the helicopter notification system. They are concerned about helicopter transports and misuse of helicopters. NTSB wants ultimate safety solutions. There are concerns that the systems can't be federally regulated.

DFW – No Changes.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Roberts
Secretary