

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTIES OF POTTER & RANDALL
CITY OF AMARILLO

MINUTES

On Wednesday, August 5th, 2015, the Emergency Care Advisory Board met at 4:30 p.m. on the Third Floor, City Council Chamber, City Hall, 509 Southeast 7th Avenue, with the following members present:

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS ATTENDED	NO. MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT
Dr. Brian Eades	Yes	13	13
Dr. Roger Smalligan	Yes	9	13
Robert Saunders	Yes	11	13
Dr. Kevin Rickwartz	Yes	5	5
Dr. Stephen Neumann	Yes	1	1
Dr. Rakhshanda Rahman	Yes	1	1
Chief Jeff Greenlee	Yes	2	2
Franke Robertson	Yes	1	1

Also in attendance were:

Blair Snow	Management Analyst, City of Amarillo
Liz Swearingen	Assistant City Secretary, City Of Amarillo
Claud Drinnen	Deputy City Attorney, City of Amarillo
Dr. Gerad Troutman	EMS Director, City of Amarillo
Eric Lynn	Operations Manager, Amarillo Medical Response

Items taken out of order.

ITEM 1: Dr. Eades called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance

ITEM 3: Presentation by Blair Snow on Amarillo Medical Response's (AMR) May 2013 through July 2015 Response Times.

Ms. Snow reminded the members that the Response Time Standard for System Wide Response, all priorities, are 90%. The Response Time Standard for Priorities 1-3 for each zone, including the Airport, is 85%. The Response Time Standard for Transfer Services is 85%. All response times were in compliance except May of 2013. Dr. Smalligan inquired to how transfer time data is collected. He stated he had seen long transfer times for his patients Mr. Saunders replied delays could be due to ambulances in use due to emergencies. Mr. Robertson replied the standard on time could be the discrepancy, the time call is taken vs time the ambulance is needed. Mr Saunders advised that 99% of transfers are unscheduled. He reminded the board that a Scheduled Transfer is 24 hours notice. Dr. Smalligan added priorities are highly responsive only transfers are slow. Dr. Eades inquired Dr. Troutman on transfer numbers. Dr. Troutman concurred, the time used for metrics needs to be looked into. Transfer data will be addressed on the next meetings agenda.

ITEM 2: Dr. Eades presented the minutes of May 22, 2013. Motion was made by Dr. Rickwartz, seconded by Mr. Greenlee and unanimously carried to approve the minutes as ammended. It was determined later the ammendment to the minutes was incorrect, the liquidated damages was assessed, but not refunded for September of 2012. The minutes will be placed on the next meeting's agenda for approval.

ITEM 4: Discussion Items

- A. Review of the STEM I transfer task force and their efforts to improve emergent transfer times; Dr. Brian Eades, Dr. David Brabham

Dr. Brabham advised we need to collect data and perform a root cause analysis. Dr. Troutman stated they are working on perscriptions that firefighters are trained on and can administor such as Steroids. Data will be reviewed in one year. Dr. Smalligan inquired as to how do we communicate to 911 patients that are a Priority 1. Mr Robertson stated education of staff is key. 911 should be called instead of the admin line. Mr. Saunders stated AMR has a draft call script to be used that includes emergency in the name NOT "as soon as possible". Ms. Snow monitors the emergency transfers and will continue to do so to verify the call script does not inflate emergency transfers.

- B. Update of AMS cardiac arrest save rates; Eric Lynn, Amarillo Medical Response

Mr Lynn presented the save rates for cardiac arrests in the city. Amarillo's save rate is currently twice the national rate at 18.8%. Amarillo's bystander CPR rate is currently at 50.3% and also more then the national average. Mr Lynn stated that with CPR training gaining in popularity the data has shown an increase in save rate.

- C./D. Discussion of Baptist St. Anthony's request to perform transfers outside of existing exceptions to exclusive services grant to American Medical Services under its Ambulance Service Permit from the City of Amarillo; Dr. Eades

Discussion of current Baptist St. Anthony's transfers outside of existing exceptions to exclusive services grant to American Medical Services under its Ambulance Service Permit from the City of Amarillo ; Robert Saunders, Amarillo Medical Services

Baptist St. Anthony's volunteered their ambulances as an additional community resource for AMR to use. Mr. Robertson stated that it would need to be coordinated as the process could be confusing. Calls should all go through the Amarillo Emergency Communications Center (AECC). Mr. Saunders will discuss it with AMR and discussion will be on the next agenda. Dr Rahman reiterated that it would be confusing but if statys with one entity AMR, it could help the process. Ms. Snow inquired if a permit ammendment would need done for BSA to be able to be held to the City's response time standards. Permit changes AMR may look at changing minimum truck requirement rule. Dr. Rickwartz stated keeping trucks available rule may need ammended as well in the Permit.

- E. Discussion of pre-hospital care system and identify current areas

Dr Troutman, stated hopital diversions are an issue with disconnect present, Diversions become confusing. Mr. Saunders stated that AMR is working on a form to simplify the process. Mr Robertson agreed lots of confusion regarding diversion, a policy needs created. Divsersion will be an upcoming meeting agenda item. Dr. Troutman inquired to what data backs up that repose time save lives. Dr. Eades replied response time standards effect insurance rates Mr. Saunders stated there was a survey that showed after nine minutes patient survival rate went down. This study was prior to first responders. Mr . Lynn states scene times average scene report is less then

20 minutes. Transfer times average of 10 minutes. New protocols as of Dr. Troutman recommended decrease backboard use, Exapnd fire dept use of medications or CPAP use. Dr. Eades stated we need to study clinical indicators and revisit on next meeting agenda.

ITEM 5: The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at 4:30 p.m.

ITEM 6: There being no further business and no comments from the audience, the meeting was adjourned at 6:08 pm.



Dr. Brian Eades, Chairman

ATTEST: 

Liz Swearingen, Recording Secretary