

**MINUTES
AREA METROPOLITAN AMBULANCE AUTHORITY
BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING**

December 23, 2009

The Area Metropolitan Ambulance Authority Board of Directors met on December 23, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Ambulance Authority offices. Board members present were Byron Black, Dr. Jeff Beeson attending for Dr. John Griswell, Robert Hampton, Paul Harral and Zim Zimmerman. Sakura Moten-Dedrick was absent.

Others present were Matt Goetz, Jack Eades, Joyce Brown, and Lara Kohl with MedStar, Chief Rudy Jackson and Deputy Chief David Coble with Fort Worth Fire Department, and Michael Glynn with the Fort Worth Fire Fighter's Association.

I. CONSENT AGENDA

BC-982 Approval of Minutes of the November 25, 2009 Board Meeting

BC-983 Approval of the November 2009 Check Register

A motion was made by Robert Hampton to approve the consent agenda and was seconded by Byron Black. The motion carried unanimously.

II. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business this month.

III. MONTHLY REPORTS

Operations Report

Jack Eades gave the monthly operations report in Matt Zavadsky's absence. Mr. Eades referred the board to page 14 for a summary of response times in November, stating that the overall response time reliability for the month was 91.3 percent. He then referred to page 15 for an illustration of response time trends over the past months, pointing out the average response times are trending down. He added that page 16 of the report indicated MedStar had near-record response time compliance from December 1 -16.

Mr. Eades highlighted the on-going success of the Community Health Program and mentioned MedStar had conducted training for homeless shelter staff on the appropriate use of 9-1-1.

Community Outreach Report

Lara Kohl passed out announcements about the next Citizen EMS Academy scheduled for February 4 - March 11. She also informed the board about MedStar's support of MADD's Red Ribbon campaign, explaining all MedStar ambulances will be donned with red ribbons between Christmas and New Years to raise awareness of the dangers of drunk driving.

Ms. Kohl also highlighted the success of the Thanksgiving Home for Holidays program, stating crews had provided transportation for five residents of area nursing homes to have Thanksgiving dinner with their families.

Financial Report

Joyce Brown referred to the Billed versus Collected report on page 22 of the board packet, which showed that \$2.3 million, or 45.25 percent, collected in November this year versus 44.91 percent collected for the same month last year. She also referred to the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures on page 23, explaining this report breaks down expenditures by sections. Ms. Brown handed out an Income Statement for the period ending November 30, stating this is a new report based on accruals.

EPAB Monthly Report

Dr. Beeson informed the board the Advanced Practice Paramedic class took their final exam on Monday and everyone passed. He added that MedStar is planning a graduation ceremony for the class on December 28 and the program will be fully-functioning after the first of the year.

Dr. Beeson explained an issue with operations at the city jail in Fort Worth that was resulting in high utilization of crews and occasionally delay in patient care. Mr. Zimmerman stated the city council would be addressing other issues regarding the jail and this could be included in that effort.

Dr. Beeson updated the board on the status of patients who have now been classified as "system abusers". The Emergency Physicians Advisory Board designated the patients and the approved the new process for sending them solely to JPS for evaluation and treatment.

IV. OTHER DISCUSSION

Jack Eades informed the board of a trial program with two companies that provide eligibility services for accounts that would be written off for non-payment. Mr. Eades explained the service has been used in the hospital sector, but not much in EMS. The services would research eligibility status of patients, and if eligible MedStar could re-bill Medicaid. Both companies will be used on a trial basis with a contingency fee of 30-35 percent. If deemed successful, staff will present the board with a long-term contract for the service.

Byron Black congratulated staff on receiving CAAS accreditation. Mr. Eades explained MedStar was the only provider this year to receive no deficiencies in their CAAS review.

Mr. Zimmerman shared his experience riding with MedStar crew and his time spent in the Communications Center. He told the board it was a very eye-opening experience

and that he was very impressed with the way the crew cared for patients and how well they worked with the first responder agencies.

V. CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Zim Zimmerman adjourned the meeting at 10:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Hampton
Secretary