

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

August 26, 2009

A meeting of the Area Metropolitan Ambulance Authority Board of Directors was held at 10:00 a.m., August 26, 2009 at the Ambulance Authority offices. Board members present for the meeting were: Mr. Howard McMahan, Dr. Beeson in attendance for Dr. Griswell, Mr. John Hernandez, Mr. Robert Hampton and Mr. Byron Black. Absent was Mr. Danny Scarth.

Others present for the meeting were Jack Eades, Joyce Brown, Matt Goetz, Bob Strickland, Matt Zavadsky, Lara Kohl, Lonna Minardi, Chief Rhodes and Perry Bynum from the Haltom City Fire Department, Richard Nuehaus and CarlSmart with the City of Fort Worth.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

BC-966 Approval of Minutes of the Board Meeting of July 22, 2009

BC-967 Approval of the Check Register for the Month of July 2009

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

III. NEW BUSINESS

IR-161 Receive information from Mr. Perry Bynum regarding Haltom City response time reliability.

Mr. Perry Bynum with the Haltom City Fire Department stated that Haltom City has had poor response times for a four consecutive month period of April through July 2009. He said that while better response times have been noted over the last several weeks, to which he attributed to posting in the area, he wanted to bring this concern to the Board's attention and see what could be done to improve them. Chief Rhodes added that he felt this was a legitimate concern given that of the Member Cities, with the exception of Fort Worth, Haltom City was the largest, and asked what they themselves could do to assist in improving the response times.

Mr. Zavadsky thanked Chief Rhodes and Mr. Bynum for bringing this issue to MedStar's attention, and said he and Mr. Strickland have worked to address this concern when it was first identified a few weeks prior. Providing the July 2009 Performance Data report, he said he talked to Communications and the crews in the field to see what their recommendations would be, and as of July 21, they made changes to Haltom City's posting plan. He said that since the changes were made, Priority 1 call response times have improved 17 ½ percent, and response times for all Priority calls

have increased, as well. He said the posting changes are permanent and response times continue to improve, with no negative affect to the other member cities.

IR-162 Receive the Annual Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

Mr. Eades reviewed the significant features of the proposed budget. He said that while the budget was prepared with awareness of the condition of the economy, expenditures would increase to fund twelve new shifts. He said the new shifts were needed to respond to both the increase in calls for service and the geographical growth of the service area. He said that the proposed budget contained funding for the Community Health program and the Critical Care Transport service, which had been presented to the Board in June. Finally, he said that the proposed budget contained funding for merit pay increases and the incentive program. While each of these programs had been reduced from five to three percent, he said the funding was included to remain competitive in the market place.

Mr. Hernandez commented that it is important that the new Board members maintain adequate reserves. He said that without adequate reserves MedStar would not have been able to fund the much needed changes that made. He said the reserves are important for the survival of MedStar.

Dr. Beeson added that according to the Fitch Report that was completed last year, MedStar runs almost too lean.

Mr. Eades said the proposed budget was being presented for informational purposes only and that no action was needed at this time. He said the adoption of the budget would be placed on the September Board agenda.

BC-968 Approve the purchase of Deployment Monitor software from Bradshaw Consulting.

Mr. Eades requested approval to purchase this module to the current MARVLIS software system called Deployment Monitor, which incorporates call demand with AVL information to create dynamic service areas. These service areas will better match real time call demand and will help System Status Controllers post ambulances in high demand areas. He said the majority of the funds needed for this software were included in the FY 08-09 budget, with the remaining amount to be appropriated from the Authority's reserves.

A motion was made by Mr. Hampton and seconded by Mr. Black to approve the purchase of the MARVLIS software. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. MONTHLY REPORTS

Operations Report

Mr. Zavadsky, Associate Director of Operations, reported that July's response time is the best in the history of MedStar. Reminding the Board of the response time calculation change in October 2008, currently Priority 1 call response times are now 5 minutes 53 seconds. Priority 2 and 3 calls are record setting, as well, and all this is with the highest call volume received. He provided an update of the Community Health Program, stating that the program began 30 days ago and was currently being administered by a light duty paramedic. There are nine patients enrolled and three additional patients are being considered. Of these patients, there were 356 ambulance and crew responses last year, mostly due for psychological aid. Due to this program, responses are down to 10 per month, which is a 77% reduction and overall cost savings for MedStar responses and emergency department visits of approximately \$600,000. Finally, Mr. Zavadsky stated that in working with Dr. Beeson and EPAB, MedStar stand-by services are now offered to the Fort Worth Independent School District to cover their football games. The stand-bys will be three a night, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Beginning with the first event on Friday, there are 7 stand-bys already. These football standby's have not been able to have been covered for over a decade.

Media Relations Report

Lara Kohl, Public Information Officer, began by stating that MedStar has had a good month with the media with three events. MedStar was invited to attend TxDOT and Harris Hospital's ribbon cutting ceremony for the new turnaround and overpass, with a MedStar ambulance driving through the ribbon. During the Fort Worth Cats game and Customer Appreciation Night last weekend, our ambulance brought their mascot out onto the field. And, NBC5 10:00 news reporter came out and did a story on MedStar's improved response times. She stated MedStar's home page has links to the Harris ribbon cutting ceremony and Fort Worth Cats game stories.

Financial Report

Mrs. Brown gave the financial report for the month of July 2009, stating that collections were at 43.71% for the month. Year-to-date, the Authority has a collection rate of 45.89% compared to 41.87% last year at this time.

EPAB Monthly Report

Dr. Beeson presented an article from Monday's online CNNMoney.com about the increasing use of ambulances and emergency departments nationwide for patients to access primary health care services. Dr. Beeson reported that the Community Health and Advanced Paramedic program recently approved by the Authority Board is trend setting and perhaps the future of EMS. Dr. Beeson said the training for the Advanced Practice/Critical Care Transport training started on August 24th with 9 specially selected paramedics from MedStar.

V. OTHER DISCUSSION

Mr. McMahan stated that this was the last Board meeting that he would be presiding over. He said Board handled some tough issues, had overseen many service improvements, and was proud of the work that was accomplished.

Mr. Hernandez added that this was his last Board meeting as well and stated that he has been through several contractors with the Authority and since the transition in 2005, MedStar has proven that we can do it better without a contractor. He commended Mr. Eades for his great leadership and how he has an outstanding team supporting him. Mr. Hernandez stated that it had been an honor serving on the Board for so many years and that he feels good to be leaving on a high note.

Mr. Eades stated that he wanted to host an orientation session for the new Board members and asked the outgoing Board members to join them for this transition. He also asked the Board members to come back to the September Board meeting to receive much deserved recognition.

VI. CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Hernandez moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Black seconded the motion. Mr. McMahan then adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Hampton
Secretary