

EMS Partnership of Kent County Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2015
10:30 a.m.

Riverview Building
678 Front NW, Suite 200
Conference Room

Members Present: City of East Grand Rapids: Brian Donovan, Mark Herald
City of Grand Rapids: Tom Almonte
City of Grandville: Ken Krombeen, Andy Richter
City of Kentwood: Steve Kepley
Plainfield Charter Township: Cameron Van Wyngarden, Ruth Ann Karnes
City of Rockford:
City of Wyoming: Curtis Holt, James Carmody

Members Absent: City of East Grand Rapids:
City of Grand Rapids: Eric DeLong
City of Grandville:
City of Kentwood: Steve Kepley
Plainfield Charter Township:
City of Rockford: Dave Jones, Michael Young
City of Wyoming:

Also Present: Jen DeHaan, Mark Fankhauser (City of Grand Rapids), Bob Waddell (KCEMS),
Laura Knapp (City of Grand Rapids)

Meeting called to order at 10:40 by Ken Krombeen

1. Minutes - The minutes of the June meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Herald with support by Almonte to approve the minutes. Motion Carried.
2. Finance Report
 - a. The finance report was unavailable and will be reviewed at the next meeting.
3. Project Manager Report
Jen DeHaan is back in Grand Rapids again and continuing her work as Project Manager.

4. Contract Review

- Chair Ken Krombeen reviewed the progress to date. After the last meeting, the draft contract was to go through legal review.
- Jen DeHaan explained the changes to the draft that came out of the legal review were all minor wording changes, cleaning up the language. It also included deleting Appendix C, as it has not yet been approved by KCEMS.
- Chair Krombeen reported the City of Grand Rapids has forwarded suggested changes, mainly in pages 1-5 of the document. Copies of the changes were distributed and Tom Almonte was asked to report on the document.
- Tom Almonte told the group that the Attorney for the City of Grand Rapids suggested the following changes to the Agreement, as he didn't feel it would be able to be passed by the Grand Rapids Commission as is. The main issue is a concern about language that could conflict with the Grand Rapids City Ordinance related to the ability to guarantee an exclusive territory, monopoly or franchise for EMS ground transport services.
 - Where the Agreement referred to "exclusive" territory, the wording has been changed to "core". Also wording was struck that referred to exclusivity such as "No other entities are permitted to provide emergency ground ambulance service within the EEAOs other than in situation of mutual aid and as further provided for in this Section 2"; and "Assign exclusive operating rights for emergency ground ambulance services and clearly define the Primary Service Areas."
 - "EEAOA" was replaced with "CEARA" Core Emergency Ambulance Response Areas.
 - In Section D of the Recitals, the wording "or its designee" was stricken.
 - The wording referring to participating municipalities passing ordinances to accept the Agreement was stricken.
 - Additionally, there were changes suggested which were typographical errors unique to this document such as "EMS" to "EMA", which will be returned to the original state.
- Much discussion ensued regarding the changes and the intent of the Agreement, which was to preserve the existing service areas for EMS Providers and to include other standards and metrics that would improve patient outcomes.
 - Chair Krombeen stated it wasn't the intent of the Consortium to require municipalities to adopt ordinances and the suggested ordinance was only

designed as a model, making the change to strike that agreeable to the group. Each individual municipality would only need to adopt an ordinance as required by their Charter or individual ordinances.

- Questions were raised about the term “core” and its lack of a legal definition. Discussion ensued regarding the intent of changing the word “exclusive” to “core”.
- Donovan, Holt, & Kepley voiced opposition to the changes, citing the original intent of the agreement was to formally preserve the existing service areas. Until this point, the group as a whole has been working toward that outcome with no objection from rest of the municipal attorneys. The Municipal Partnership Act was also referenced as the enabling source which started the Consortium.
- Questions were raised by several if this change was being suggested to satisfy one provider. If the other providers are happy with current agreement, the changes would result in their disapproval.
- Tom Almonte confirmed that the proposed changes were reviewed and approved by Mark Meijer of Life EMS.

A Motion was made by Donovan and supported by Holt to convene the Municipal attorneys, along with Scott Smith and Ken Krombeen, together in one location to address the issue of exclusive territory, with a consensus coming back to the Consortium by September 30th. Those in Favor – All with the exception of Richter.

Ken Krombeen added that anyone representing a municipality in the Consortium could join also if they would like.

5. Other Business: None

6. Public Comment - The Board received no public comment.

7. Adjourn - The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.