



**ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY**  
**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**  
**ADVISORY BOARD**

March 26, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 1900 with Chris Adams in chair. Roll call taken and duly recorded. Corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting were made.

Members present: Dick McDougall, Phyllis McDougall, Jean McLearn, Tom Tomlins, Ken Gardner, Don Thompson, Curtis Newtown, Ann Smith, Chris Adams, Craig Ballard, Wayne Love, Ron Hance, Cindy Rockhill, and Julie Sciori

Members excused:

Members absent: Carol Muench, Dr. Greg Healey, Storm Cilley, Kevin Wells, Dan Parker

Guests: Julianne Henry – EJM, ED Director, James Stockman – NCEMS Program Agency, Director, Joe Gilbert – Director OES, Jackie Brown-dispatcher, and the following department members:

Morristown – Chris Sherwin, Kevin Crosby, Scott Richie, Brittany Gilbo  
Norfolk Rescue – Tina Garrow, James McGrath, Terri Bump  
Potsdam Rescue – Adam Schneider, Charles Merriman  
Massena Rescue – Brenton LaGrow

Changes in Minutes – Eliminate the statement regarding Waddington and elimination of the part regarding their CON and remove from the members present the names of Ron Koster and Julianne Henry

**Guests:** Kevin Crosby expressed concerns over the new policy just issued from the Office of Emergency Services regarding the dispatching of ambulance. He reported that dispatching times in Jefferson County are 4 minutes after the initial page, 8 minutes for third tone, then nearest staffed service. In Franklin County pages go out at the 5 minutes and 10 minutes after initial tone and in Lewis County after the initial tone, additional tones go out at the every 3 minutes. Kevin said he disagrees with St. Lawrence County dispatching at 4 minute intervals In his area, due to location of his members and time to get to the station, many cannot make it within 4 minutes, especially during the night hours. Much discussion followed by others who were in attendance. As a result of discussion, Ann Smith made the motion the Advisor Board move forward with a Mutual Aid workshop session and come up with a Mutual Aid proposal/plan, seconded by Phyllis McDougall and carried. Ann, then, made a second motion that a task force be formed to determine the feasibility of instituting priority dispatching for St. Lawrence County. Motion was seconded by Ken Gardner and carried.

**NCEMS Program Agency** – no report

**Office of Emergency Services** – Joe Gilbert wanted it made clear that any policy recommended by the EMS Advisory Board is uniform across the board for all agencies in the county.

**Air Methods** – 1. Don commented on the use of Air Method on a recent snowmobile accident and team effort to assist the patient between the ambulance and helicopter crews. Good call with a good outcome.  
2. Ann commented on a recent article in the newspapers regarding the high cost of billing for the helicopter service. She stated that is was just that, a statement for service prior to submission to the insurance company. If there is a balance due, other avenues are available to obtain this.

**Unfinished Business** - none

**New Business** – 1. Julianne Henry stated she was interested in becoming a member of the Advisory Board. Motion to accept was made by Cutis Newtown, seconded by Tom Tomlins and carried.  
2. Bill Sova is interested in being on the board. Dick McDougal moved to recommend for his appointment to the SLCEMS AB, seconded by Curtis Newtown, and carried.  
3. Joe Gilbert he has signed and already sent on an application for county wide consolidation for dispatchers for a grant from the Local Government Efficiency Grant for \$50,000. This grant is to see if it is feasible to consolidate all county wide emergency dispatch services. This would include such communities as Potsdam, city of Ogdensburg, Gouverneur, Massena.  
4. Norfolk Rescue: re: call in which the helicopter was cancelled by a mutual aid ALS provider after being requested by Norfolk Rescue. It was determined this was a communication issue and a CQI issue and will be forward on to the NCEMS Program Agency.  
5. Massena Rescue: Re: SVA. Effective March 15<sup>th</sup>, SVA will not be providing ALS care to Massena Rescue. The contract between SVA and Massena is up and there are problems with the wording.  
6. Dick McDougall asked what is going to be the outcome regarding the shortage of drugs according to the new policy dated 3/15/13 from the DOH. Chris recommended all agencies carefully read it and highlight points of interest.

**Elections** – With Grover no longer on the board, a new vice president needs to be elected. Tom  
- Tomlins nominated Craig Ballard who declined the nomination. Dick McDougall was then nominated, seconded, carried and accepted.  
- Chris Adams was nominated to continue as president, seconded, carried and accepted.  
- Don Thompson was nominated to continue as Secretary, seconded, carried and accepted.

The next monthly meeting will be at 7pm at the Office of Emergency Services on May 28, 2013.

Upon a motion made by Curtis Newtown and seconded by Tom Tomlins, meeting was adjourned at 2103 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Thompson  
Secretary