



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

Minutes of the St. Lawrence County EMS Advisory Board Mtg.  
November 28, 2023

Meeting called to order by Chris Towler at 1807 hours.  
Roll Call taken and duly recorded.

Members present: Storm Cilley, Dr. Coates, Jay Moore, Donald Thompson, Chris Velez, Chris Towler.

Members absent: Eric Alan, James Blackburn, Doug Bohl, Aaron Johnson, Alina Parcels, Miranda Simpson, Kevin Wells, Nicholas Wildey.

Members excused: James Barr, Mark Deavers, Tammy Sykes,

Ex Officio Members present: Rita Curran, Jessica Thompson representing Jonathan Cole, Carly Zimmermann.

Ex Officio Members absent: Jonathan Mitchell.

Guests present: Matt Denner Emergency Services, Collen Gleason Air Methods

Motion by Jay Moore to accept the minutes from the last meeting. Second by Rita Curran. Carried.

There was no correspondence.

Emergency Services - Matt Denner

Training at Morristown HS. Triage is needed. Materials provided by Fort Drum and Jefferson County. MCI training will be provided by an outside agency. There is a need to involve EMS in Law Enforcement Training. There is a misunderstanding by law enforcement agencies as to what roles EMS will perform. They are developing EMD type cards and questions for law enforcement. Three large scale training operations will be scheduled in 2024.

REMSCO/REMAC - Jessica Thompson

Communications by PULSARA phone app are being encouraged, but not mandated. Already being utilized in the Capital and Central NY regions. Should be available here in mid January. Reminder that CMEs are due by the end of December. Notifications will be sent out to agencies of those not in compliance.

Education -

The Clarkson Paramedic program has 17 students currently enrolled. The Clarkson

EMT class will test out. Jefferson County is testing out. The Elizabethtown Paramedic program has 15 -16 students. The Program Agency is looking at holding an EMS Education Day in collaboration with Fort Drum. The spring Clarkson EMT class is almost full. Training funds are available from St. Lawrence County.

Up coming training - There will be a Critical Care Paramedic hybrid program out Syracuse starting in Feb. Clarkson will be holding preceptor training.

Air Methods - No Report

Old Business -

Rita Curran - The county legislature has appointed a committee to how they can best support EMS services in the county. There is still a concern with the inability of local hospitals to get transports out. What is the best way to provide coverage for squads with high turnover rates? Ambulance? Fly car? They don't want to step on toes or offend people, but something must be done. They are looking for two committee members from the EMSAB. Jonathan Cole will discuss the CON process with them.

New Business -

Storm Cilley brought up problems with closing charts in EMS charts due to constant changes in NEMSIS. NYS is addressing the problem.

Matt Denner stated that there is a problem getting information out during emergencies. They are going to a vendor package for alerts available to Fire, EMS, and citizens. Right now it is limited to Chiefs. He is looking for 1 or 2 EMSAB members to serve on the committee. More information can be found on the county website. Search Emergency Plan Committee.

Solar Eclipse planning is underway. It is expected to be a major event in St. Lawrence County.

Carly Zimmermann - has taken over Jolene Munger's position in the SLC Health Department. She will be holding CPR classes for county employees, vaccination clinics, and other public health initiatives. There has been a significant increase in overdoses since 2019. Many are not being reported. Please report them, as county receives funding based on the number reported.

If EMS agencies need Narcan, it can be provided for free from the Emergency Services office. They can also get some to hand out to the public. Several are providing to those who sign off after being treated for an OD. They will send out a flyer with a QR code to access the reporting site.

Nominations for EMSAB offices are due in January for the annual meeting in March.

It is hoped the the mutual aid plan will be available for discussion and approval at the January meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Dr. Coates. Second by Jay Moore. Carried.  
Meeting adjourned at 1910 hours.

The next meeting will be January 23, 2024 at 1800 hours at the county office building on route 310. Nominations for offices will be taken.


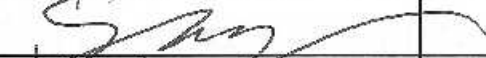
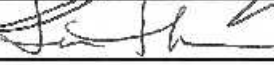


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 ADVISORY BOARD

**Meeting Attendance - 11/28/2023**

Name	Signature	email
Members		
Eric Alan		eric.h.alan@protonmail.com
James Barr	EXCUSED	jkbarr@pvrs.org
James Blackburn		jblackburn4287@yahoo.com
Doug Bohl		dbohl@clarkson.edu
Storm Cilley		treasurer@ogdensburgrescue.org
Dr. Coates		ryan.w.coates@gmail.com
Mark Deavers	EXCUSED	markdeavers@gvrs-ems.org
Aaron Johnson		johnson088@yahoo.com
Jay Moore		jaymore1@yahoo.com jmoore@gvnrhospital.org
Open Seat <i>Miranda Simpson</i>		
Open Seat <i>Azina Brooks</i>		
Tammy Sykes	EXCUSED	tsykes@cphospital.org
Donald Thompson		dthompso@northnet.org
Chris Towler		towlercd@gmail.com
Chris Velez		cujocop@yahoo.com
Kevin Wells		sheriffwells2430@gmail.com
Nicholas Wildey		wildeyns@gmail.com
Ex Officio Members		
Jonathan Mitchell		JMitchell@stlawco.org
Jonathan Cole		
Rita Curran		curranrp@yahoo.com
Jolene Munger - <i>Carly Zimmerman</i>		jmunger@stlawco.org
<i>Corliss Gibson</i>	EXCUSED	

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Guests		
Carly Zimmermann		CZimmermann@stlawco.gov
Matt Denna		
Jessica Thompson		<del>jthompson</del> jthompson@fdnho.org



ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES  
**BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

48 Court Street; EMS • Canton, NY 13617 • [www.stlawco.gov](http://www.stlawco.gov)

St. Lawrence County EMS Agencies and Municipal Leaders,

Beginning June 1<sup>st</sup> 2022, at the beginning of every month the St. Lawrence County Office of Emergency Services Bureau of Emergency Medical Services in conjunction with the St. Lawrence County EMS Advisory Board started providing call volume and turnover statistics to all EMS agencies. Beginning August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, the same letter started being provided to every municipality as well.

Call turnovers are considered any call in which the agency is toned and is unable to respond an ambulance, thus requiring mutual aid. This can be due to a variety of reasons including, but not limited to: Inability to staff an ambulance with the appropriate personnel (Lack of volunteers/paid staff), multiple calls for the agency resulting in no apparatus available, etc. It is important to note that a call turnover results in having to dispatch an ambulance from another jurisdiction, reducing that mutual aid ambulance service’s availability to provide coverage for those in their primary response territory.

	<b>October, 2023</b>			<b>YTD - 2023</b>		
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Calls</b>	<b>Turnover</b>	<b>Coverage</b>	<b>Calls</b>	<b>Turnover</b>	<b>Coverage</b>
Canton Rescue	192	3	98%	1587	53	97%
Colton Rescue	23	2	91%	261	25	90%
Cranberry Lake Rescue	6	1	83%	60	5	92%
Gouverneur Rescue	147	2	99%	1386	11	99%
Hammond Rescue	9	4	56%	101	39	61%
Hermon Rescue	38	23	39%	330	173	48%
Lisbon Rescue	29	5	83%	280	87	69%
Madrid Rescue	25	6	76%	253	70	72%
Massena Rescue	283	13	95%	2723	202	93%
Morristown Rescue	31	3	90%	348	19	95%
Norfolk Rescue	61	25	59%	549	273	50%
Ogdensburg Rescue	202	2	99%	1941	29	99%
Parishville Rescue	37	0	100%	393	6	98%
Potsdam Rescue	193	29	85%	1984	213	89%
Rensselaer Falls Rescue	11	4	64%	129	30	77%
Star Lake Rescue	24	0	100%	204	15	93%
Seaway Valley EMS	47	8	83%	492	64	87%
Tri-Town Rescue	86	8	91%	836	103	88%
Waddington Rescue	17	6	65%	215	41	81%
<b>COUNTYWIDE</b>	<b>1461</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>14072</b>	<b>1458</b>	<b>90%</b>

EMS in our County is struggling, and intervention is necessary to keep the system afloat and operational. County call turnover statistics, as displayed above, are at an all-time high (2020: 94% coverage rate, 2021: 90% coverage rate, 2022 88% coverage rate, YTD 2023 90% coverage rate), which has resulted in over-utilization of mutual-aid ambulance companies; companies that may see little-to-no financial reimbursement for coverage. Average ambulance response times have increased 5 minutes 13 seconds from 2019, with the longest response time of 2021 being 1 hour and 43 minutes, and the second longest being 1 hour and 26 minutes.

DATED: 11/13/2023



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It is encouraged that municipal and agency leaders work together to determine the issues surrounding EMS in their respective communities, as well as investigate avenues to mitigate issues found. Upfront honesty and joint coordination are necessary to assist in combating the EMS crisis that we are facing.

For any questions or concerns regarding the above information, additional data/statistics, or are a municipal leader seeking contact information for your local ambulance agency providing services to your area, please contact the St. Lawrence County Emergency Services Bureau of EMS Office at (315)379-2240 or [jmitchell@stlawco.gov](mailto:jmitchell@stlawco.gov).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan W. Mitchell".

Jonathan W. Mitchell

Deputy Director of Emergency Services

DATED: 11/13/2023