

ESA November Board Meeting

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 5, 2008 2:00 P.M.

PIKES PEAK REGIONAL BUILDING
DEPARTMENT, 2880 INTERNATIONAL
CIRCLE, COLORADO SPRINGS

FACILITATOR	Chair Jim Reid
NOTE TAKER	Eileen Gonzalez
ATTENDEES	Commander Jim Reid, Jeff Wanderscheid, Commissioner Sallie Clark, Dr. Jack Sharon, Mayor Jeri Howells, Valerie Brickell, Kandi Buckland, Dr. Marilyn Gifford, Chief Brandon Payne, Chief Rick Martinez, Dan Molner, Celeste Lippy, T. Wayne Florek, Jane Fredman.
ABSENT	Councilwoman Margaret Radford

Agenda topics

1. CHANGES TO AGENDA/POSTPONEMENTS

DISCUSSION	
None.	

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

DISCUSSION	
<p>Dr. David Ross updated the Board on the CARES program. The project received Institutional Review Board approval from both hospital systems. Dr. Bryan McNally, Principal Investigator, and Allison Crouch, Program Coordinator, will be in Colorado Springs in early December to deliver orientation training for the EMS providers, and Ms. Crouch will attend the Region 4 committee meeting and the ESA Board meeting on December 3 to give a brief overview of the program and answer questions.</p> <p>Ted Sayer called the Board's attention to AMR's community service report and noted that Tawnya Silloway received one of the Colorado Springs Business Journal's Women of Influence awards.</p> <p>Commissioner Clark congratulated Jeff Wanderscheid and Chief Brandon Payne on their unanimous approval for appointment by the Board of County Commissioners.</p>	

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 1, 2008

DISCUSSION	
None.	
MOTION	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Motion to Approve the October 1, 2008 Minutes	Commissioner Sallie Clark
Second	Jeff Wanderscheid
Approved	Unanimous

4. A. REGULAR BUSINESS – COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

DISCUSSION	
The Compliance Committee did not meet in October.	

4. A. REGULAR BUSINESS – MEDICAL CONTROL COMMITTEE REPORT

DISCUSSION	
Dr. Sharon noted that Drs. Ross and Gifford and their staffs reviewed two RSI cases; both were appropriate. The	

committee reviewed two complaints, both of which were resolved appropriately.

4. B. REGULAR BUSINESS – TREASURERS REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2008

DISCUSSION	
Chief Payne and Eileen Gonzalez reviewed October's Treasurer's report, noting no unusual items.	
MOTION	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Motion to Approve the Treasurer's Report for October 2008	Jeff Wanderscheid
Second	Dr. Marilyn Gifford
Approved	Unanimous

4. C. REGULAR BUSINESS – PRESENTATION OF THIRD QUARTER GRANT AWARDS

DISCUSSION	
Chair Reid and Chief Payne presented grant awards to Cimarron Hills Fire Department for an EZ Glide Stair Chair and Pikes Peak Fire Rehab for three Zoll Automatic External Defibrillators.	

5. A. NEW BUSINESS – DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS LIABILITY INSURANCE QUOTES

DISCUSSION	
Jane Fredman informed the Board that she contacted IMA of Colorado, the statewide insurance brokerage, and requested a quote. Philadelphia Insurance Company expressed interest and specializes in this type of insurance. The annual premium will be approximately \$2,269 per year, and Jane hopes to present a quote at the Board's next meeting.	

5. B. NEW BUSINESS – AMBULANCE SERVICE CONTRACT

DISCUSSION	
<p>Chair Reid thanked Curt Decapite and Gina Abbott for their exemplary work on the contract. He noted that the contract has been available for board review for the last few weeks, and asked staff whether reviewers have expressed major concerns about the contract. Gina noted that she did not have any reviewers, and Curt noted that he had a few reviewers, but that they expressed no major concerns. Chair Reid announced that the Board had selected American Medical Response (AMR) as the contractor, and congratulated them on their selection.</p> <p>Ted Sayer of AMR presented an overview of AMR's proposal as incorporated into the proposed contract. He thanked everybody involved for a fair and good process. He pointed out that the system under the new contract will essentially remain in place, and won't see degradation in any aspects of AMR's current service. It remains a fee for service, non-subsidized, high-performance system based on response times, and continues AMR's current level of community support, including Home for the Holidays, Sentimental Journey, car seat checks, and EMS grant programs. The proposed contract continues to include a coordinated countywide system approach to EMS, with medical and operations oversight continuing through ESA Board, and all standards for response times and contractor qualifications remain in place.</p> <p>Ted discussed new and enhanced response zones under the new contract, and noted that the changes constituted the largest increases AMR has ever seen within the system. Commissioner Clark clarified that there weren't any changes on the western end of the county, and expressed a concern of her constituents that some areas near downtown currently in a 12-minute zone needed to be in an 8-minute zone. Ted noted that these response times can be reviewed as needed, not just annually, and Chair Reid noted that the Board could review response times in the areas Commissioner Clark is concerned with, specifically the Old Colorado City, Manitou Springs, Broadmoor, and Broadmoor Bluffs areas.</p> <p>Ted went on to note that the proposed contract contained a system-wide 92% response time compliance standard. He also discussed the introduction of Quick Response Vehicles (QRVs), and assured the Board that the QRVs will not be used to "stop the clock" for the ambulance service contract, but rather to deliver ALS more quickly and to help backfill the City when the police department calls for assistance with medical clearance. There will be two QRVs deployed at all times. Chief Martinez expressed a concern that deploying QRVs Code 3 could create another hazard for the community. Ted acknowledged his concern and said that AMR would be happy to entertain any discussion about that issue.</p> <p>Ted described the Type III ambulances that would be provided under the contract. They are van front/box back ambulances, with drop chains for winter weather, built-in child safety seats in the jumpseats, a safety theme on the back of the vehicle, and a number of other innovative features. Commissioner Clark asked whether the City and the County logos could be displayed on the vehicles along with the ESA logo using decals, and Ted agreed that they could. Chief Martinez clarified that AMR would be replacing the entire vehicle, not just the chassis, according to the contract's</p>	

replacement schedule. Ted agreed, and went on to explain that AMR currently owns three Type III vehicles that they would extend through their 165,000 mile life, and would be providing nine brand new Type IIIs in year one and replacing the others as they hit their mileage limits.

Chief Payne asked whether any of the vehicles were four-wheel drive, and Ted noted that they were all rear wheel drive with drop chains and positraction in the rear end, which they find perform better than four-wheel drive vehicles. In response to a question from Commissioner Clark, Ted clarified that, while all new ambulances dedicated to the ESA will have drop chains, AMR ambulances that are dedicated to interfacility transfers will not.

Ted continued his presentation by noting that AMR's administration of the Public Access Defibrillation Program will continue in the City and County, with up to 30 replacement AEDs per year, and adding cell phone-based call boxes to select high-risk sites such as World Arena. First aid kits will be deployed with all AEDs; there'll be a website showing AED locations; and AMR will administer an AED "loaner" program for patients with transient risks.

Ted also described the Pandemic and Bioterrorism Surveillance system, which is software that interfaces with AMR's Computer Aided Dispatch system, looking for specific call types and trends that would identify a biological event, pandemic or bioterrorism. Kandi Buckland asked whether the health department would be linked to this system, and how AMR plans to use the data. Ted explained that when the software identifies something as a potential threat, stakeholders such as members of the Health Department, the City's Office of Emergency Management, Commander Reid, AMR staff, and anyone else identified as having a need to know would receive a page with information and could research it further. He said there would be some planning meetings relating to implementation. Kandi asked whether AMR had used the surveillance system in the past and what's been the outcome, and Ted noted that they have and that he's heard generally positive things. Kandi noted that she would be very interested in more detailed information about the system and its use in other areas.

Ted reviewed contract elements relating to cost increases. He noted that AMR did not request their contracted CPI increase in 2008, and do not intend to do so in 2009. Their average patient charge (APC) is currently \$852.63, and Advanced Life Support (ALS) base charge is \$562.11. If AMR had taken their contracted CPI increases of 6.865% in 2008 and an estimated 3% in 2009, the proposed costs under the new contract would be 0.63% above that amount, or \$5.91 more on the APC and \$3.93 more for the ALS base. In comparison to other providers in the state for which we have data, AMR's costs are now the lowest and will be second lowest under the new contract.

Ted described a planned effort to improve patient care reporting, and Chair Reid noted that if any changes were implemented, there would be a six-month period to test the changes and adjust accordingly before the Board could hold AMR to the standard.

Kandi Buckland asked for more information relating to the child immunization program. Ted said that he sees it as a mobile flu shot clinic initially, and later, working with the Health Department and other stakeholders, part of a community outreach program. The program is still in the development stage because the terms of the contract "blackout" period prohibited AMR from approaching stakeholders to work out details.

Chair Reid asked Jane Fredman for clarification about providing AMR guidance on the paint scheme for the new ambulances, since there is a 120-day lead time for ordering the ambulances and AMR would like to order them as soon as possible. Jane opined that the Board could vote on the paint scheme, but that the vote would essentially be a recommendation for approval, and that City Council or the Board of County Commissioners could vote something different. Chief Martinez was concerned that AMR's proposed paint scheme looks like CSFD's and that it would be confusing. Wayne Florek noted that at night, red can be seen as black, and that might be dangerous. Ted noted that AMR has begun using reflective markings that really stand out at night. The board voted unanimously to direct AMR to use a particular paint scheme described as Exhibit 1 (attached).

Chair Reid asked whether there were any comments or discussion and there were none. He then asked for a motion to move the contract forward to City Council and the Board of County Commissioners. Dr. Sharon made the motion, and Jeff Wanderscheid seconded. The Board discussed whether it was appropriate to approve the draft contract before them so that it could be presented to Council and BOCC on November 17. After some discussion, Dr. Sharon withdrew his motion and Chair Reid announced that the Board would hold a special meeting at which the final versions of the contract, all final exhibits and the response zone map would be presented to the Board for their review and approval.

MOTION	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
No motion.	N/A

5. C. NEW BUSINESS – BOARD MEMBER/STAFF COMMENTS

DISCUSSION
Dr. Sharon moved to recognize Chief Manny Navarro for his contributions to the ESA system in El Paso County. The motion passed with Councilwoman Margaret Radford absent, Commissioner Sallie Clark voting no, and Commander Jim Reid not voting.

Chief Payne expressed his appreciation for being selected to be a part of the Board, and his thanks to staff and board members for their work on the contract.

Chair Reid congratulated Commissioner Clark on her reelection. H noted that he had negotiated for the Regional Development Center office space lease, which came in \$1,000 higher than he had announced in the last meeting, and requested that board members let him know if they had concerns.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

MOTION	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Motion to Adjourn	Dr. Marilyn Gifford
Second	Jeff Wanderscheid
Approved	Unanimous

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:28 p.m.