

## EMS Board Meeting Minutes

19NOVEMBER2019

The Kossuth County EMS Board held their advertised meeting on 19NOVEMBER2019 at the Algona EMS Facility, 1515 South Phillips Street, Algona, IA 50511.

1830 HRS Meeting called to order by Chairman Stecker

Members present: Nelson, Walker, Murphy, Albers, Stecker, and Davis

Discussion and decision on approval of previous meeting minutes and agenda for 19NOVEMBER2019 with one minor correction on the agenda (moving the discussion with Dr. Mike Lampe to the top of the agenda) a motion to approve both minutes and agenda was made by Phil Albers and seconded by Mark Davis. A roll call vote was conducted and passed unanimously with those present.

Dr. Mike Lampe was invited to the EMS Board Meeting to discuss the insight from the medical providers at Kossuth Regional Health Center in Algona.

- A county system of some sort is very important to the providers. The need for common protocols, scope of practice and common mission is key to quality care. The Hospital and Providers are a significant part of the system of prehospital emergency care as they ultimately receive the majority of these patients and will have their understanding of EMS communicated across the board.
  - With the systemic approach he hopes for improved communications with the providers and KRHC and the surrounding facilities.
- Dr Lampe would like to see an increased availability of EMS providers for all of Kossuth County which would improve response times and patient outcomes.
- In his opinion there is a need for increased staff to provide the level of care that is expected. Not only 911 calls but transfers as well.
- Dr. Lampe has a desire to become the Medical Director for a Kossuth County EMS system/Service. This would allow for increased provider involvement. This does not mean that he would be the only provider interacting with EMS staff, but he would coordinate this on behalf of the other providers. He feels that there is a need for a direct line of communication for EMS to a provider 24/7/365.
- His goal is to provide a more involved CQI process. To allow for EMS providers to get results of a patient's outcome as well as possible care recommendations.

After Dr. Lampe spoke with the EMS Board, Gary Merrill stated, "to find a provider like Dr Lampe who desires to be more involved in prehospital care is a unique situation in rural EMS. This would be a great opportunity."

On another topic Gary advised that the process of bringing a new service into existence will be timely, several months at the least. You have a need to:

- Get approved and licensed by the state of Iowa
- Apply and obtain a NPI (National Provider Identification) number from Medicare 2-4 wks.
- Medicare Validation 1-3 months
- Medicaid Enrollment 1-3 Months
- Blue Mark Enrollment 1-3 Months
- Pharmacy agreements
- Contract with billing companies
- Contract with suppliers

“This is an extensive process”, Merrill stated.

David Penton, Secretary of the Board stated his agreement with Merrill. This is not a simple process, when you hear of the time frame that this Board is desiring (By July 1) and all of the requirements we need to take another look at the Goals of this board.

At this time the majority of the board stuck with their desire to stick with this goal of a County Service by July 1, 2020.

Board of Supervisor Donnie Loss asked again for the timeline to be addressed and provided in more detail. Responses were provided by many members of the board.

Don McGregor asked about the areas outside of Kossuth County that we currently serve and how that area would be funded as well as... What if those services (Buffalo Center) who come into Kossuth desire funding? What is the plan for this? Multiple board members have already started conversations with some of our neighbors and intend to have agreements with all neighbors as we move forward.

The Board had a discussion on the System administrator position.

The Kossuth County Board of Supervisors approved hiring an EMS System administrator this current year. They have given permission to advertise the position. The interview committee will be made up of: Dr. Lampe, Amber Garman, Kyle Stecker, and David Penton.

The Board of supervisors will allow the EMS Board to provide direct supervision and direction to this position. All major decisions should be brought to the Board of Supervisors for consultation.

David Penton will post the position in local newspapers, have it posted on the Kossuth County Website and IEMSA website. Posting will be open until 12/31/2019 or until a suitable applicant is found.

A motion was made by Don Walker as follows; Posting will be open until 12/31/2019 or until a suitable applicant is found. The EMS Board will review applicants and bring the top 8 to the interview comity.

A second for this motion was made by Rick Murphy. Motion carried.

Bo Miller a concerned citizen, “since you talking about staff; what about the current staff that Algona EMS has? If this transition to a county service goes or the Paramedic become county employees, will their benefits, and seniority travel with them? They were / are not looking for a new job and should not lose what they have earned.”

Mark Davis stated, “In my eyes and my recommendation would be yes, all they have travels with them. It would be like when I was told I was no longer a Mercy employee and became a county employee as a PA. It was not my desire to change employers, but the county took my salary, benefits (better benefits) and seniority. That is only fair”

Stecker said he would research how this would work but the entire board echoed Mark Davis’ desire.

The EMS Board transitioned to a discussion on the visits to Kossuth County EMS services. All services were visited by members of this board. Those who conducted these visits stated that the visits went well. They had encountered some concerns but over all everyone is on board.

Concerns:

- What about the new ambulance we just bought? (What you have stays where it is)
- What about loans we have on equipment?
- What about the money we have earned and banked?

David Penton shared that he had just recently spoken with Whittemore EMS staff and they have concerns about this process. They depend on the EMS revenue to help fund the Whittemore Fire Dept. They bring in about \$40,000.00 per year in revenue.

Penton stated, “I explained to them that the benefits could outweigh the negatives. The benefit of free training not only for EMS personnel but fire staff as well, space rent in the fire station, no longer needing to worry about paying for calls, licensing, vehicle and equipment maintenance, etc.”

Penton provided a very, very rough draft of a budget for a county wide EMS Service. This budget is 2.6 million dollars. Again, Penton echoed that this is very very rough in numbers.

The EMS Board felt that they had been provided a lot of information and decided that they would like to have a workshop for their next meeting.

The date and time for the next meeting was set for December 3, 2019 at the Kossuth County EMA EOC.

A motion by Mark Davis with a second by Ryan Nelson on the next meeting location and time. Motion carried.

Chairman Stecker declared the Kossuth County EMS Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

David L. Penton Board Secretary

Kossuth County EMA / 911 Coordinator