



**Marion County
Fire Rescue Emergency Services Advisory
Board Meeting
December 8, 2009**

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – 4:01 by Chairman Pat Gabriel. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Paul Clark.

II. **Members Present:**

Paul Clark, COO Munroe Regional Medical Center
H. Rex Etheredge, CEO Ocala Regional Medical Center
Dr. Frank Fraunfelter, Medical Director, MCFR EMS
Patricia Gabriel, Chairperson
Chief Dan Gentry, City of Ocala Fire Chief (arrived late due to extended meeting)
Dr. Karen Gold Bill Glass
Thomas Lorio

Members Absent:

None

Attendance taken by Anna Carpenter

Others in Attendance:

Chief Stuart McElhaney
Chief David Cooper

Chief Shari Hall
Karl Oltz
Miranda Iglesias

Deputy Chief Dan Azzariti
Cindy Marihugh

III. **MINUTES**

Motion to approve minutes from the October 13 meeting was made by Dr. Gold; seconded by Bill Glass.

IV. **MASTER PLAN**

Master Plan is not yet completed; sidetracked due to Department Business Plan preparation. Each County department was tasked with developing a business plan outlining their department's processes. This project has monopolized staff's time for most of the past eight weeks. Much of this business will be incorporated into the Master Plan; good tool to summarize the status of MCFR today. Expect completion of Master Plan to be January. Chief McElhaney, "The business plan will offer a system to benchmark our organization against."

- Discussed current urban and rural response areas. Reviewed data from first F/Y of MCFR providing ambulance service.
- There are 30 positions on the ambulance side currently vacant. Have funds to hire 15 of them. However, at this point, unsure of funding for the remaining 15 positions. Property Appraiser has projected an 8 to 10% decrease in property values for coming year.

- Bringing in a doublewide mobile home to Maricamp and considering cross-training employees staffing the medic units. This would help cover the vacancies.
- The former Risk Management building in the City could be used to house single certs to perform medical runs within the City of Ocala. Dual-certs could not be stationed at this facility as MCFR does not perform Fire services within Ocala city limits.

Dr. Fraunfelter reported that there is a shortage of paramedics state wide. "Qualified ones can go anywhere else in the State and make more money."

V. TRANSPORT REVENUES

The first year of ambulance service, October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009, saw a revenue surplus over amount projected. \$12,165,381 Projected; \$12,290,117 Received; \$124,736 Net. Chief McElhaney reported that they had researched the question asked at previous meeting about placing liens for non-payment of transport bills. There is no county in the State which allows this. By staggering hours of Billing personnel, a 5-10% increase in collections has resulted. Staggering hours allows personnel to contact people while they are home.

Chief McElhaney reviewed histograms depicting ambulances high priority calls by population density. Board discussed problems of servicing urban areas. Chief McElhaney: "I believe Dan Gentry put it very eloquently one time ... 'its physics'. What we are looking at is whether the call volume justifies having staff there; Orange Springs for example."

VI. RESPONSE TIMES

Chief McElhaney: "One of the things this Board is charged with is establishing response times." Suggested goals (voluntary standard): 8.59 minutes Urban (90% of the time); 12.59 minutes Suburban (90% of time), and 14.59 minutes Rural (90% of time). "We are actually a little closer to the 8.59 than we were two months ago."

Bill Glass made a motion to accept Rural response time of 17 minutes; 15 minutes Suburban. Motion was not seconded. Paul Clark motioned to adopt as a goal the suggested response times as proposed by staff. Motion seconded by Bill Glass; passed unanimously.

Dr. Fraunfelter reported that Marion County has a 25% likelihood of survival for cardiac emergencies. The national average is a 3.6% survival rate.

VII. DEPARTMENT ITEMS

Reviewed a list compiled from staff recommendations for Department improvement. Most suggestions related to stabilization of organization and adequate staffing and supervisory issues.

Suggestion from Board was that Department needs to make use of positive publicity; let the public know the success story of the consolidation of EMSA, response times improvement.

Motion made by Dr. Gold to have Chief McElhaney write a guest editorial as detailed and comprehensive as he deems appropriate. Request that Star Banner publish it. Motion seconded by Bill Glass; approved unanimously.

Pat Gabriel suggested that a rough draft of a publicity plan be presented at the next meeting. Motion by Dr. Gold to enact this suggestion; seconded by Bill Glass; approved unanimously.

Bill Glass motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Paul Clark.

**Pat Gabriel adjourned the meeting at 5:40.
Next meeting will be held January 12, 2010 at 4 PM in Fire Headquarters.**

Minutes submitted by Anna Carpenter.

Approved:

Pat Gabriel, Chairman

Date