



Marion County
Fire Rescue Emergency Services Advisory
Board Meeting
January 12, 2010

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – 4:02 by Chairman Pat Gabriel. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

II. **Members Present:**

Paul Clark, COO Munroe 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
Thomas Lorio

Members Absent:

H. Rex Etheredge, CEO Ocala Regional Medical Center (*excused*)
Bill Glass (*unexcused*)
Attendance taken by Anna Carpenter

Others in Attendance:

Chief Stuart McElhaney	Deputy Chief Dan Azzariti	Karl Oltz
Chief David Cooper	Rob Graff	Chief Richard Maxwell
Miranda Iglesias	Scott Cragen	Chief Bart Walker
Jamie Banta	Peveeta Persaud	

III. **MINUTES**

Minutes from the December 8, 2009 presented and approved.

IV. **“EMS MONTH”**

The month of May is designated as “EMS Month.” Miranda Iglesias led discussion on ideas to inform and educate the public; let them know of improvement in emergency response times, dramatically improved cardiac survival rates, and “how we are here to serve them.” Some of the suggestions mentioned:

- Go out into the community; attend meetings
- Radio interviews
- Perform post-service surveys
- Measure media coverage
- Hold Public Education events
- Dr. Fraunfelter: Establish goal to train a certain number of residents in CPR during EMS Month; target retirement communities.
- Dr. Gold suggested targeting high schools for CPR training as well.
- Chief McElhaney suggested incorporating another message into high school program such as driving safety.

- Chief Gentry proposed that the high school training could become a year round program, not just during the month of May.
- Chief McElhaney presented idea of a collaboration of the CPR training along with Lew Simon's presentations on AED (Automatic External Defibrillator).

Dr. Gold asked how the Board members could support and assist this effort. Dr. Fraunfelter recommended that they take the CPR training and volunteer as instructors. Dr. Gold motioned that all willing Board members become certified as instructors; motioned passed with Tom Lorio dissenting.

A synopsis of the transition of emergency medical support from EMSA to MCFR will be presented at the February 2, 2010 BCC meeting.

V. QUARTERLY REPORT: Chief Azzariti

Total Ambulance Runs: MCFR transports remain fairly consistent with number of transports performed by EMSA; FY 09/10 first quarter = 10,965.

There has been a great improvement in delay times at facilities. 'Delay' defined as any handoff of patient which takes in excess of 20 minutes. Paul Clark: "One issue we had is that you start the clock when you leave the truck. There are times when ambulance staff takes the patient up to another floor...we don't even know they're there." Crew from hospital and MCFR working together to differentiate those times. Dr. Fraunfelter commented that all hospitals are working very hard to improve in this area.

Tom Lorio asked where the Fire Dept.'s responsibility ended with the patient. Chief Azzariti: "Theoretically at the door, but we have to wait until someone takes over the patient's care."

Billing Update: MCFR working to fine tune the collection of fees owed. There will be a Medicaid reduction next year. Working now to figure out how much of a revenue reduction we will be facing. Once a dollar amount has been defined, it will be reported to the Board. MCFR does experience a larger percent of collection than average.

Purvis Grey is performing an audit of Fire/Rescue operations. MCFR reduced the subsidy given EMSA from \$8 million to \$5 million, a substantial savings; on track now to collect an additional \$1 million more than was budgeted for the year. Just over \$1.1 million per month average collection rate; better than targeted.

Still 30 positions short on ambulance side; affects response times. Direction from BCC was to hold 15 positions until budget time. If cuts need to be made, those may have to be eliminated.

Prevention: Did presentations for 22,000 elementary school children in the month of October; tested over 4,000 hydrants.

Dispatch: Discussed types of calls and procedures; cardiac, trauma, etc. Dispatchers have flip cards to advise caller of how to care for patient. This enables patient to begin receiving care immediately. Dr. Gold requested a short presentation of these procedures. Karl Oltz

suggested a tour of the current Com. Center and subsequently a tour of the new facility. It will be arranged.

VI. OVERVIEW OF 5 YEAR PLAN

Original plan began in FY 2001/2002. In those years, MCFR built five new fire stations, increased staffing and improved Fire service. Since taking over emergency transport from EMSA, subsidy has gone from a yearly amount of \$8 million to \$5 million with improved response times and more units on the road.

There are four major sources of funding. Due to decreased property values, will be receiving less revenue; recently received projections from the Budget Department that we are looking at an 8% drop for next year. This equates to a \$1.3 million reduction in MCFR budget that must be identified.

Chief McElhaney: "We need to find that funding without reducing the ability to do our job. The following year we are anticipating an additional 3% drop. From that point forward, we should start to build up again. But we are planning for the worst case scenario."

"Last year we dropped three positions out of our org chart. This Board voted to do that; the Commission voted not to cut those positions. We are trying to keep those positions in there and move forward, but you need to know that it is a real possibility that next year we could have fewer positions."

"Lastly, most people in the department feel that Dispatch should come back within the Fire Department. That is one of the other things up for discussion right now. Karl has done a truly magnificent job, but who knows what will happen 5 years down the road."

"We still want to build the other 5 stations that were part of the original 10 year plan ... the cost of a Fire station is more in the people than in the building. The 5 Year Plan will begin with next fiscal year. The first completely new fire station will probably be built in year 5. There will be some rebuilds done; Shady, Ft McCoy, for example. We have a local firm looking at renovation of existing stations. Finalized report will be drafted toward end of this month."

**Pat Gabriel adjourned the meeting at 5:43.
Next meeting will be held February 9, 2010 at 4 PM in Fire Headquarters.**

Minutes submitted by Anna Carpenter.

Approved:

Pat Gabriel, Chairman

Date