



MINUTES

Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board

June 26, 2007

11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

15 Waller Street, 2nd Floor

ATCEMS Headquarters

Meeting called by Patrick Crocker

Board Members Present: Ms. Susan Pascoe, Dr. Donald Patrick, Mr. Paul Carrozza, Dr. Patrick Crocker

Board Members Absent: Ben Coopwood

Other Attendees: Ernesto Rodriguez, Ed Racht, Chris Callsen, John Ralston, Heather Cooke, Jeff Brockman, Vivian Holmes, Jasper Brown, James Shamard, David Anderson, Melissa Warren, Casey Ping, Gary Warren, Jim Evans, Karyl Kinsey, Acadian Staff included: Chris Cirillo, Julia Clarke, Jerry Romero, Keith Simpson

11:45 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Patrick motioned to approve the minutes of meeting on of April 24, 2007 and the minutes June 26, 2007, Ms. Pascoe seconded; all approved and the motion carried.

11:46 a.m.

Overview of Acadian Ambulance Franchise

Keith Simpson, Commander – Technology

- ▶ Mr. Simpson provided an overview presentation of the applicant company, Acadian. If approved, Acadian will step in to handle the business previously provided by MetroCare; we will continue to have two ambulance franchises operating in the city of Austin--Acadian and American Medical Response (AMR).
 - Below is an outline of what Acadian will bring to Austin if granted the opportunity to operate in Austin.
 - 9 units during peak load times
 - 4 units at night
 - one-hour response timeNote that the number of units is more than what Metrocare has provided and AMR historically has fewer units than Metrocare.
 - Mr. Chris Cirillo with Acadian provided an overview of the company, (see Acadian's informative notebook) and their future plans to build a state-of-the-art dispatch center in Austin. They are currently working through transition so when the franchise is granted they will be ready to operate. Their operations include being able to initiate care and perform advance procedures if needed. Dr. Patrick asked about their ability and allowance to initiate care and perform advance procedures and Dr. Racht explained that an ordinance went into effect approximately six years ago that allows all COA franchise operations to provide emergent intervention, initiate care and immediately notify the City. The care is to continue until City representatives arrive to take over. To date, there have been no endotracheal intubations performed by an ambulance franchise employee.
 - Mr. Simpson explained Acadian's customer service plan that includes the following:
 - Monitoring of customer database
 - Weekly contact with hospitals and centers
 - QI for employees; internal policies/procedures
 - Acadian has met CAAS (Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Service) credentialing.

It's important to note that this presentation is a review of what Acadian has said they plan to do in Austin and what they have accomplished in 37 other communities, including Louisiana and Mississippi. Their corporate office is in La Fayette, LA.

- Medical Direction will be provided by Dr. Rhett Reed, Metrocare's current Medical Director
 - ATCEMS has evaluated and inspected Acadian's fleet and equipment. Staff has also
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conducted a customer satisfaction audit and concluded an overall positive response from eight government agencies. They have also verified with Texas Department of Health and Human Services that Acadian is in good standing with state certifications; current license expires on July 31, 2008. City of Austin Law Department has reviewed Acadian's Articles of Incorporation and they have met the minimum requirements for insurance. Deputy Director Rodriguez, in the past has visited their facilities, including their Communications Center, and is impressed by their QI process and agrees that they will be an asset to the community.

Upon Advisory Board's approval, the process will include a public hearing and three readings from City Council as required by the Ordinance.

Vote:

Dr. Crocker excused himself from the voting process due to his relationship with a staff employee who is also a member of the Acadian team. Dr. Donald Patrick made a motion to approve the franchise; Susan Pascoe and Paul Carrozza approved and a vote-by-proxy was submitted by Dr. Coopwood. The motion carried to approve and grant the Acadian franchise operation.

12:20 p.m.

Overview of Office of the Medical Director Staff Positions *Dr. Ed Racht, Medical Director*

- ▶ Medical Practice Manager – sixteen applications were submitted; five phone interviews were conducted; three internal applicants and a total of seven interviews were held. EMS and AFD were united on the selection for this position.
- ▶ Deputy Medical Director – eleven applications were submitted; one non-physician, ten were screened and two applicants didn't meet minimum qualifications. Four applicants were notified and two out of the four withdrew. Panel interviews will be held on Friday with the panel consisting of AFD and CAFCA Stakeholders, Travis County Executive Director Danny Hobby, Dr. Crocker and Dr. Patrick. City Manager Toby Futrell will meet with both applicants and make the final decision on Friday afternoon.

12:30 p.m.

Overview of FY 07-08 Budget Review

John Ralston, Assistant Director, Admin.

- ▶ Mr. Ralston provided an update to the Board and reviewed a power point presentation of the ATCEMS Budget for FY07-08 (see attached document).
 - Two additional Peak Load Units were added
 - Additional budget requests include: Rescue boats, additional AEDs, staff vehicles for the Office of the Medical Director, and IV pumps.
 - The Department has not met with the City Manager yet to obtain her feedback. Departments will present the budget to Council in August.

12:38

AISD Program Update

James Shamard, Assistant Director, Professional Practice and Standards

- ▶ The first AISD class graduated on May 25 with six students who are ready to move to the next step.
- ▶ City Manager Futrell recommends that we expand the program to include two additional schools making it four local area schools that will provide the EMT class.

12:43

County Reporting Areas

Ernesto Rodriguez, Deputy Director

- ▶ See the attached map and data. Deputy Director Rodriguez has been working with Travis County EMS Executive Manager, Danny Hobby, to make sure the geographic designed map suits the needs of Travis County. Heather Cooke will send out a survey to see what other counties are doing. Vice Chair Pascoe suggested benchmarking it against itself.
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12:48

Other Business

- ▶ Current needs for ATCEMS include:
 - Standby Requests – We have a large request for Standby's in our community (i.e. 10k races, Erwin Center events, and other outdoor related activities). We currently use staff on their days off and pay them overtime. If we could access grant dollars to put teams together to help with Standbys that would be a huge help and we wouldn't have to use off-duty staff to fill these positions. The largest request comes from the Erwin Center and we are currently looking at alternatives to assist them.
 - Need additional fleet to manage volume of Standby's.
 - Ms. Pasco asked if we could use staff from franchises to help offset this need. ATCEMS does forward Standby requests to other providers, however due to the size of the franchise fleet, their first job is in providing transport services.
- ▶ Critical needs are two Peak Load Units
- ▶ Ernie is to draft letter outlining the above needs to the board.

12:53 p.m.

Adjournment

Dr. Crocker motioned to adjourn and the meeting came to a close.

Dr. Patrick Crocker

Next meeting, August 21, 2007

Minutes Approved: _____ Dr. Patrick Crocker, Chair	_____ Date
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