



**The Austin – Travis County EMS Advisory Board convened on May 2, 2012, 15 Waller Street, in Austin, Texas at 9:30 a.m.**

**Board Members in Attendance:** Susan Pascoe, Bob Taylor, Paula Barr, Carlos Brown, Paul Carrozza, Hector Gonzales, Vard Curtis

**Board Members Absent:** Mark Clayton

**Other Attendees:** Ernesto Rodriguez, Vivian Holmes, James Shamard, John Ralston, Keith Simpson, Jeff Hayes, Danny Hobby, Terry Browder, Jim Persons, Teresa Gardner, Scott Fernandes, Jose Cabanas, Paul Hinchey, Patrick George, Rick Branning, Gigi Mao, Troy Mayer, Christine Thies

**1. CALL TO ORDER –May 2, 2012**

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Welcome - Dr. Vard Curtis was introduced and welcomed as a new member of the Advisory Board. He fills the role as a physician appointed by the Travis County Judge and Commissioners Court. Dr. Curtis will complete the City of Austin training for new Board Members.

**2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL - None**

**3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion:** The minutes for the regular meeting of February 1, 2012 were approved on Vice Chair Pascoe's motion, Board Member Barr's second on a 6-0 vote; recusing Dr. Curtis.

**4. DISCUSSION AND ACTION AS APPROPRIATE ON A RECOMMENDATION IF ANY, TO CITY COUNCIL AND COMMISSIONERS COURT RE: ATCEMS BOARD MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE.**

Board Members discussed the possibility of reducing the number of board members. This topic was brought up due to the difficult time of forming a quorum.

- Current membership is nine members. The City appoints five members and the County appoints four members. Since there was a strong showing of members at today's meeting, it was agreed to review again at the August 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. A reminder about the importance of attending the meetings was given.

**5. RECEIVE PRESENTATION; DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED FY13 ATCEMS BUDGET; ACTION AS APPROPRIATE.**

- John Ralston reviewed the budget presentation that included review of:
  - Horizon Issues
  - Unmet Needs - Budget requests to City for FY13
  - Budget Process Timeline
  - Currently looking at an on-line payment option to make it easier for patients to pay a bill.
  - Medicare is changing what they will cover for ambulance services.
  - City is looking at a one-stop payment center for all COA payments.
  - Vice-Chair Pascoe recommends consideration of electronic posting of payments.

**6. CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON THE RENEWAL OF THE NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSFER FRANCHISE CURRENTLY HELD BY ACADIAN AMBULANCE**

- Mr. Branning provided the presentation. Details included:
  - No regulations exist for a private ambulance service to run in Travis County.
  - The last recommendation from the Advisory Board approving the Acadian Franchise was in 2007 and the current franchise agreement expires October 2012.
  - ATCEMS did the last audit in July 2011 and reviewed their performance and fleet and they are currently in good standing.
  - Acadian has applied for another five-year term; however City Council can set the terms. ATCEMS recommends approval of another five-year term.
  - Troy Mayor, VP of Operations with Acadian to provide the amount of revenue Acadian receives. Once the data is received, Chair Taylor will share with the rest of the board.
  - City Council reviews the ATCEMS fee structure annually during Budget review and they approve the same fee structure for the franchises.
  - Group discussed increasing amount of application fee. Currently, it is set at \$5,000.

Advisory Board members and staff discussed the renewal and the history of ambulance franchises in the City of Austin and other options to consider. It was noted that the board should be reviewing the franchise data annually.

**Motion: Approve Acadian franchise renewal for a one-year term and recommend that ATCEMS provide a report on model structure and the fee. Vice Chair Pascoe and Chair Taylor to send a letter to City Council and Travis County Commissioners. Vice Chair Pascoe motioned, seconded by Board Member Carrozza, motion passed on a 7-0 vote.**

**7. UPDATE ON TRANSPORT UNIT STAFFING RE-CONFIGURATION**

- An update was provided to Board Members by Chief of Staff James Shamard.

- ATCEMS received City Manager's approval to hire Medic 1's.
- The next Academy begins this week with four paramedics and seven Medic 1's.
- There are approximately forty vacant positions and additional hiring processes will take place in the near future.

## **8. REVIEW OF SYSTEM DATA REPORTS FOR FY12 Q2**

- Chief Rodriguez and Dr. Hinchey reviewed reports; board members discussed.

### **a. Receive Information on Coverage Gaps Tracking Metric**

- Chief Rodriguez presented the information.
- The goal is to become one regional system, but there are gaps to fix before that can be done.
  - Presentation of a chart showing comparison of city and county growth.
  - Have been using city ambulances to respond to the county gaps.
  - Half of all calls in county are being responded to by the city; however, the county currently collects funds for these services.
  - A system funding chart was reviewed.
  - Chair Taylor asked what is the net cost per service? Chief Rodriguez has the data and will chart it out.

### **b. ATCEMS EMS Coverage Assessment -- State of the System**

- Chief Shamard reviewed this item.
- Board members discussed the information. It was also noted the possibility of unit turn around time improvement due to additional new hospitals in some of the areas mentioned; staff will assess in the future and see if there is relief from the openings.

## **9. ADJOURN**

Chair Taylor adjourned the meeting at 11:26 a.m., without objection.