

**AUSTIN – TRAVIS COUNTY EMS ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

WEDNESDAY, June 11, 2015



**The Austin – Travis County EMS Advisory Board convened on June 11, 2015,
15 Waller Street, in Austin, Texas at 9:30 a.m.**

Board Members in Attendance: Mark Clayton, Paula Barr, Vard Curtis, Susan Pascoe, Richard Jung

Board Members Absent: Chris Ziebell, Hector Gonzales

Other Attendees: Jeff Hayes, Kevin Dixon, Doug Fowler, Jamila Zakari, Keith Simpson, Vivian Holmes, Ernesto Rodriguez, Meredith Knight, Hailey Becker, Kerri Lang, James Shamard

1. CALL TO ORDER –June 11, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 9:53 a.m.

2. QUORUM DETERMINATION

A quorum was met and the meeting proceeded.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING – April 17, 2015

Motion: The minutes for the regular meeting of April 17, 2015 were approved on Board Member Pascoe's motion and Vice Chair Barr's second on a 5-0 vote.

4. RECEIVE CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS/COMMENTS – None

5. BUDGET UPDATE AND TIMELINE

Kerri Lang, Assistant Director of Administration & Finance provided a copy of *FY 2015-16 Initial Funding Requests: Provided an overview of the General Fund, Internal Services Funds and Potential Service Reductions List*.

- Unmet service demands
- Potential service reductions.
 - Reductions submitted by each City department to offset the cost of funding a Homestead Exemption
 - Reduction Plan - 1.5% reduction of the EMS budget. If the department is given a target we can make a decision on what will be reduced.
- The base EMS budget has been submitted to Council
- The final budget will be ready to start presenting by July 31, 2015. With the exception of last year, a department-level budget reduction exercise is typically conducted as part of the budget process.
- Chaplaincy Program - this program is new and in order to meet budget needs in other areas, EMS is considering partnering with APD and their chaplaincy program.

CPR Program – Board Member Pascoe asked if EMS is the only entity that provides this service in the community.

- EMS is at the center for the city program. There are many private CPR instructors who work with department staff to provide training to citizens.
- Unmet Needs List: The department will get direction from the City Manager's Office within the next two to three weeks on what will be included in the City Manager's Budget recommendation to council. There has been dialog about the 42-hour work week and about annexations station coverage, but no decisions have been made. Council will give more direction after the end of July.
- Assistant Director Lang provided a verbal timeline of the budget schedule. The City Manager will present the proposed budget on July 30th and Council work sessions will occur on 12th and 13th of August.
- Board Member Jung asked if EMS staff has coordinated efforts with the Austin – Travis County EMS Association. The staff agreed that there has been good communication and the biggest item for the Association is approving the 42-hour work week, which staff concurs.
- Annexation - Chief Shamard and Assistant Director Lang explained the process. Mr. Hobby explained how the city and county have worked together on this operationally. He talked about the growth of the counties, including Williamson County and how there are places where the boundaries run together. Travis County and Williamson County have a good working relationship. Vice-Chair Barr commented that loss of revenue for the ESD is felt greatly when annexations by the City of Austin occur.

Board Members recommended contacting city and county dignitaries to help support the department on budget needs. They agreed to reach out to the council's Public Safety Committee to bring awareness of what the Austin – Travis County EMS Advisory Board does. Board Member Jung recommended talking to ACM Arellano about the budget. The Board decided they would plan to meet before the August budget meetings in order to get an update from staff and make suggestions regarding the budget.

6. REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCANNING

- Chief Rodriguez gave an overview of why the Department did the environmental scan.
 - Demographer's prediction is continued growth in our service area. We have had a 50% increase in growth in the last five years.
 - Increase number of special events which require overtime to provide EMS coverage to the events. The Department charges the event for coverage.
 - The Department has noticed a three year turnover, which comes after an employee gets superior training in our system. Employee's that resign do so for reasons such as to attend advanced medical school to become a physician or nurse; or they decide they want to work in a slower paced system. Fatigue is an issue and employees leave as they look at what they want for their future.
- Chief Rodriguez introduced Keith Simpson to give the PowerPoint presentation on Environmental Scanning.
 - Environmental Scanning is the process of collecting, analyzing and distributing information for tactical and strategic purposes. For the Department, it is a kind of radar to systematically scan our community and the healthcare system to identify the new, the unexpected, the major and minor impacts over the next three to five years.
 - Scanning includes meeting with stakeholders, employees, exploring political developments and reviewing city and county plans and reports.
 - The IHI Triple Aim is Population Health, Experience of Care and per Capita Cost.
 - Trends identified by the Environmental Scan included political, economic, social, technological, competitive and regulatory.
 - While EMS is viewed as public safety department, it is a healthcare organization and part of the public health system.

- Professor Olmstead at the LBJ School of Public Affairs held a special class last semester to look at system improvements and to look at a way to become a better agency in the medical field. Once the school has finalized the report, Chief Rodriguez will send Board Members a copy of it.

7. ANSWER QUESTIONS REGARDING SYSTEM REPORTS - None

8. RECEIVE UPDATES FROM SYSTEM AGENCIES REPRESENTATIVES:

- a) Medical Director's Report: Chief of Staff Jeff Hayes provided the update:
 - Update on House Bill 3488 - this bill dissolved. The clinical review process that Dr. Hinchey talked about at the last meeting has been put in place. The stakeholder input will help to redefine the process.
- b) Austin EMS Department: Ernesto Rodriguez, Chief
 - No other updates.
- c) Travis County Emergency Services: Danny Hobby, Executive Manager
 - Mr. Hobby said that House Bill 2249 did not get out of committee. (The bill "relating to the creation, powers and duties, and administration of emergency response districts; providing authority to impose taxes and issue bonds.")
 - Travis County's Pete Baldwin is retiring and tomorrow, June 12th, will be his last day.
 - Regarding the recent STAR Flight incident and the on-duty loss of a crew member; everyone came together during this tough and sad period, including those in the system and the entire community. STAR Flight is back in service. Mr. Hobby does not know exactly what the cause was, but he does know based on their review that it is safe for them to be back in service. STAR Flight helped with the Memorial Day floods in Central Texas. He noted that compassion goes along with Leadership.
- d) Austin Fire Department: Tom Dodds, Chief of Staff
 - Chief Dodds discussed the Memorial Day flooding and the good coordination between AFD and EMS on responding. They covered a lot of area and coordinated resources to serve the community during a difficult crisis.
 - Chief Dodd's has been working on a plan with APD, AFD and EMS on active shooter incidents and how local public agencies respond. Looking at best practices and using incident management tools. They are working on a policy that will be ready soon.
- e) Emergency Services Districts: Ron Moellenberg, CAFCA President – not present

8. OTHER BUSINESS

- The group wished Chief Harry Evans well as he retires from the Austin Fire Department. Going forward, Chief Tom Dodds, will attend these meetings from AFD.

9. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

The minutes were approved on this the 3rd day of August 2015 on a unanimous vote.