

# MINUTES

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## **AD-HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE JO DAVIESS COUNTY BOARD FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE SUSTAINABILITY**

Friday, April 12, 2019 @ 3:30pm  
Jo Daviess County Courthouse - 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

### **MINUTES**

1. Call to Order **by Bill Bingham**
2. Roll Call and establishment of a quorum – In attendance: Mary Jo Losey, Scott Toot, Richard Robinson, Bill Hermann, Kathy Gable, Scott Green, Bill Bingham, Mike Dittmar, Joe Heim.  
Absent: Dan Schleicher, Mike Murphy, Tracy Bauer, Deb Heidenreich  
**A quorum was established**
3. Approve minutes from the March 22, 2019 meeting **Motion by S. Toot /second by R. Robinson. Motion carries**
4. Visiting Representative(s) comment and discussion (if applicable). **Mr. Melcher from Stockton shared with the Board his concerns and suggestions for providing a countywide EMS system.**
5. Unfinished Business
  - A. Discuss in detail Initiatives 4 through 10 and the work that is necessary to wrap these up and codify them for the white paper.
    - 4 Evaluate the operational components of Jo Daviess County EMS agencies to determine both shortfalls and successes with yet to be determined aspects of the service.
    - 5 Identify and provide immediate changes that will immediately improve the quality of Jo Daviess County EMS service response.
    - 6 Identify the source and amount of budget allocation and other funding sources as well as the expenditure process of each Jo Daviess County EMS agency.
    - 7 Identify the salaries, stipends, on-call and special detail per diem, and all other EMS related monetary disbursement.
    - 8 Provide an accurate accounting of the number/type of EMS calls/agency for 2016, 2017, and 2018.
    - 9 Arrange a meeting with all EMS agencies in Jo Daviess County for their respective input and identifying problems add concerns.
    - 10 Arrange a meeting with all EMS agencies in the county.

**Committee Members have met with Galena, Warren, and Stockton to provide information for our survey. We need to set up appointments with Elizabeth and East Dubuque to complete this phase.**

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Discussion of the surveys showed that staffing is one of the more issues consistently among agencies that have completed the survey. Mary Jo Losey stated that we need to develop a clear report concentrating on staffing and adequate funding. She also addresses the aging of those in Jo Daviess County and the impact that can have on recruitment initiatives. Mary Jo also mentioned dealing with the impact of repeat calls in non-emergency situations and the lack of community education that could assist in resolving some of these issues. The lack of home health care in the county has an impact of many organizations, including EMS.

- B. Review the remaining initiatives and assign members to begin developing a plan to move ahead on these projects, particularly those involving county-wide education. Discussion led by Mary Jo Losey emphasized the significance of the educational component of this project. It is critical that this initiative be prepared as soon as possible. Bill Bingham asked Mary Jo if she could head-up this project and she responded in the affirmative. She will select other members to assist her and we can expect some preliminary information in a few days. Scott Green questioned whether the county had enough personnel to accommodate a paid service. Scott Toot said that at least 54 EMS employees would be the minimum necessary to staff four strategically placed county EMS stations. Joe Heim, East Dubuque Fire Department focused on the importance of accurate data necessary prior to putting some of these pieces together. Without data, any positive outcome is unlikely. Accurate stats focusing on repeat responses in needed to be effective in our decision making. Mary Jo Losey reminded everyone that EMS services that do not respond to their respective calls are in violation with the Illinois Department of Public Health and that they could possibly have their EMS license revoked. This is what happened in Hanover. Bill Hermann put things into perspective by sharing that the situations in which EMS services do not respond to a call does nothing to address the issue of the EMS staffing when there are no calls. Mike Dittmar made it clear that every EMS agency provide EMS service 100% of the time.

## 6. New Business

- A. Discuss the committee schedule, and evaluate comments from members, to determine if meeting dates and times should change. **There was input from a few members on how to possibly adjust the schedule. One option was to maintain the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday for the Galena meetings and to look at another day of the week that may accommodate members that have trouble attending.**

## 7. Citizens' Comments

**Comments and lively discussion ensued with both member and audience participation. A few new and important points were addressed during this discussion that will be addressed at the April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting in Elizabeth. These issues are addressed in 5A and 5B above**

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8. Ad hoc Committee Member Comments, Suggestions and Concerns (**See above**)
9. Next regular meeting – **April 26, 2019 at 3:30pm at the Elizabeth Ambulance Station**
10. Adjournment - **Meeting adjourned at 5:22pm**