JOINT CITY/COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMISSION
Tuesday – March 25, 2014 - 4:00 p.m.
Administrative Center
Conference Room 3220

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tara Johnson, Nancy Proctor, Mayor Joe Chilsen, Jerry Arndt, Dr. Chris Eberlein

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Joe Kruse, Sharon Hampson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Eric Grube

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Tornstrom, Steve O’Malley, Jay Loeffler, Jim Klock Scott Sampson

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL
Tara Johnson, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. /Roll Call

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Motion by Proctor/Arndt to approve the meeting minutes of October 29, 2013
MOTION passed unanimously. Kruse, Hampson excused: Grube absent.

2013 TRI STATE OPERATIONS REPORT - Tom Tornstrom/Dr. Chris Eberlein
Hand out - Tornstrom explained that Tri State is a 501c3 Non-Profit owned by Gundersen and completely dependent on run volume, (90% of revenue) and billable transport volume with no subsidy. Net accounts receivables trended monthly from late 2008 through January 2014 with the high fluctuation resulting from turnover in the billing department and interruptions. Although Tri State only experienced a 1.9% billable run volume increase from 2008 to 20013 they actually raised the overall operating revenue to keep in line with growing expenses. This was done through billing process efficiencies and in part, rate increases. Average charges are much higher from interfacility transport and the sharp downward trends were due to bad debt write-off adjustments. Medicare reimbursement for 6 years has only gone up approx. 8.9%, which is only 1.5% annually with Medicare making up nearly 60% of billable runs.

PATIENT DESTINATION FIGURES
Continuing on with a Destinations report, meaning meeting a receiving facility, Tornstrom used Gundersen La Crosse, Mayo La Crosse and Vernon Memorial in Viroqua, which are the 3 main hospital facilities Tri State transports too. No transport was also added with vast majority of all being 911 requests.
90% of destinations are determined by client or family and 10% are either unconscious or from out of town and unable to make a decision. In those cases the destination determined is by an every other week rotation between Mayo and Gundersen. Tornstrom also explained the response times and zones, which are based on the contract with the county and designed by the EMS commission.
STANDARDS WORKGROUP BENCHMARK STUDY AND RECOMMENDATIONS
Dr. Eberlein continued his report with cardiac arrest survival. He pointed out the comparisons country wide, at a full cardiac arrest to discharge; Rochester 58%, King Co. 57%, La Crosse 44%, Minneapolis 22% and Detroit 1%. The component to improve survival of cardiac arrest is system wide from the initial contact through hospital admission which is why standardized protocols and working with the First Responders to increase AED usage is so important. Statistics show, the rate of returning home, as you were before a cardiac arrest, is 80% in a facility having an AED, versus 4% if you were at home. Public awareness and training will also improve bystander CPR, which has already gone up considerably with the change from mouth to mouth CPR to compression only. Eberlein continued to outline the components of protocols and quality benchmarks for STEMI, Cardiac arrest, stroke and critical trauma.

The commission discussed efficiency, expense of improvements, and additional standards. It was decided the commission would craft a letter advising the four systematic protocols Dr. Eberlein recommended from the standards group to support the benchmarks in place.

1. Aspirin administration by First Responders.
2. 12-Lead (Get EKG prep ready.)
3. Assist in carrying patients.

The letter will be presented to the directors of the agencies and copy the commission members and elected members. Mayor Chilsen and Dr. Eberlein will invite Mayor Kabat and the City Council President to meet and discuss the additional recommendations made by the Standards Workgroup and future involvement with the commission.

Mayor Chilsen also suggested the Benchmark Study and Recommendations be presented to the Towns Association.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS
Towns Report Back
Gundersen EMD Report

NEXT MEETING DATE
Tuesday, August 26, 2014
Possibly an offsite location

ADJOURNMENT
Motion by Proctor/Chilsen to adjourn. MOTION passed unanimously. Kruse, Hampson excused: Grube absent. Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Disclaimer: The above minutes may be approved, amended or corrected at the next committee meeting. Patti Jakowski, Recorder.