

Bayfield-Ashland Counties
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
August 6, 2020

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting of the Bayfield-Ashland Counties EMS Council was called to order by Tam Hofman, President of the Council. Meeting was held via zoom.

MINUTES – Erika Kurtz, made motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Lyn Cornelius. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Steve Cordes sent the following information:

- \$1,375 for med direction on 6/23
- \$10 to the State of Wisconsin for non-stock corporate report.
- \$15,786.44 in the checking account.
- \$108 still in the "cab cash" envelope. (Do we still need to do this?)
- We have not yet received dues from Red Cliff and North Air.

Motion by Dan Clark, second by Erika Kurtz, to accept the Financial Report.

SERVICE UPDATES:

GLIDDEN EMS – Louis Carl has resigned as service director. Cari Broge is the new director.
RED CLIFF AMBULANCE – Lynette Hansen has moved to a new position. Michael Lang, second in command of the Red Cliff Clinic is Director of the Ambulance with Brian Kline, Operations Manager serving as point of contact.

HEMS:

NORTH AIR CARE – Mike Zolik introduced himself as the new outreach guy at North Air Care. Bases are open, flyovers and LZ training done with COVID in mind.

LIFE LINK III – Precautions being taken for potential COVID patients; available for LZ training. Duluth will be going 24/7. Info will be forthcoming.

MMC – Erika Kurtz reported on several items:

- "Official" linen cart in ambulance garage; supplies to wash cots, etc.; abundance of mop heads;
- Negative test a week ago, respiratory symptoms mean treat as positive for COVID.
- Protocol under development for anyone who needs a test.
- Lots of psych and alcohol patients.

Question: Is personal insurance being billed for COVID tests?

Take \$1000 from budget to cover COVID tests for Council providers?

Discussion: EMS and service providers looking into "no-cost" for testing;

No clear guidance – lab fee or may be billed, just not charges for test.

Another ambulance service impacted. Impact on volunteer services. Worker's compensation issues. HERC – wanting to know how to support EMS communities?

PUBLIC HEALTH – Liz Szot, Ashland Co Public Health, swamped with contact tracing and exposures. Issues on mask orders. Ambulance situation; providers wearing PPE mitigated the situation. Positive cases today – locations of businesses with potential exposure – persons not forthcoming with information. GIS – map businesses with potential exposures. Listed for 28 days. Facebook and AL (Ashland County) website.

HERC – Aimee Wollman-Neseth, Coordinator for the NWWI Health Emergency Readiness Coalition (HERC) is developing action reports for the COVID response beginning in March and following to include opportunities for improvement and successes.

CDC: Vaccinations will bring another potential confusing component to the response. Aimee is trying to keep folks informed.

Flu vaccine usually in October. Anticipate anti-vaccine messaging for both flue and COVID vaccine when available.

Reminder: EMS may assist with vaccinations. Ask within services if EMTs are willing to participate; anticipate training needs/quickie course.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – Jan Victorson reported:

- Free COVID-19 testing in conjunction with the Wisconsin National Guard is scheduled:
 - Iron River - Friday, August 7th;
 - Cable – Friday, August 14th
 - Red Cliff – Saturday, August 22nd
- Appointments may be made for both the Iron River and the Cable sites by calling the Bayfield County Health Department COVID hotline.
- PPE is being ordered and distributed every other week thru emergency management.
- N95 masks are precious. Please conserve and reuse whenever possible. Model 1860 N95 respirators are no longer available through the

PPE distribution program/SEOC (State Emergency Operations Center).

- Reminder that the UV DECON TRAILER is up and running in Hayward. Details available thru emergency management.

LIFT ASSIST ISSUES: Discussion. Involves Insurance, doctors/clinic providers, medical-alert providers, Home-health providers, etc.

MEDICARE – Barnes, Bayfield, and Mason are affected by recent requirements. Track ambulance expenditures for one year. LifeQuest taking care of billing/revenue part; no guidelines for spending of money; hours of time to research expenditures; every service will be affected within four years. All requested to share information that may be received.

NEXT MEETING – The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday, September 3rd.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion made by Joe Schick, seconded by Jeff Byerhof, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

IN ATTENDANCE

Brooke Ahlers	LifeLink III
Jeff Byerhof	South Shore
Dan Clark	Washburn
Lyn Cornelius	Bayfield
Brett Friermood	Barnes
Tam Hofmann	South Shore/APIS
Brian Kline	Red Cliff
Erika Kurtz	MMC/Ashland
Joe Schick	Mason
Liz Szot	AL Health
Jan Victorson	BAEM
Aimee Wollman-Neseth	NWWI HERC
Mike Zolik	North Air Care