

Ambulance District Meeting Minutes 7/30/15

7:00 PM, 16 Croton Avenue, Conference Room

Chair Dr. Robert Seebacher, Ossining Town Supervisor Sue Donnelly, OVAC Captain Nick Franzoso, Richard Wishnie, Village of Croton Village Manager Jeannine King, and Village of Ossining Assistant Village Manager Christina Papes were present. Croton Chief of Police Anthony Tramaglino, Village of Croton EMS Captain Bill McCabe, Town of New Castle Administrator Jill Shapiro, Town Councilman Geoffrey Harter, Village of Ossining Trustee Bob Daraio, Village of Ossining Mayor Victoria Gearity, Village of Ossining Manager Abe Zambrano, Village of Sleepy Hollow Village Administrator Anthony Giaccio, OVAC Chairman and Treasurer Alex Beck, William Hamilton, Ronald Dornau, Director of Croton Department of Emergency Management Dick Nagel, and Town of Ossining Attorney Wayne Spector were absent.

Dr. Seebacher calls the meeting to order at 7:03PM. The first order of business is to approve the minutes from the prior meeting held on April 16th, 2015: the group reviews the minutes, Supervisor Donnelly makes a motion to accept, seconded by Christina Papes, and the minutes are accepted unanimously with one abstention (Manager King).

Captain Franzoso begins discussion of the statistics for the second quarter of 2015, which is reported as being slightly slower than Q1, which may have been artificially inflated due to all of the snowstorms. The 1st page shows the call breakdown between municipalities with 78% of calls coming from the Village of Ossining (564 VOS, 121 TOS, 12 TNC, and 28 mutual aid), percentages that are on par with prior quarters. The 2nd page shows Dispositions, which do not demonstrate any significant trends. Again, a lift assist is coded as a "no treatment, no transport"- Atria is now taking care of some of the more minor incidents in-house, so the ambulance is coming to them 2-3 times per week, as opposed to once a day as before. The 3rd page maps 9 years of Q2 statistics, and shows that the District is actually down just slightly(0.5%) from Q2 2014.

The 4th page measures outgoing mutual aid, with Briarcliff Manor making the most requests (17), with Croton (10) and Sleepy Hollow (1) encompassing the rest. As for incoming calls, Briarcliff Manor took 8 calls, and Croton took 12, which the Captain mentions are usually the calls on the North End. The police dispatch is improving as far as distinguishing between Briarcliff and Town of Ossining calls. The next page breaks down the calls for which OVAC requested Mutual Aid, including addresses, call type and call time.

The 6th page details the 2nd call in District, which in Q2 came to 34.5% of all calls, a number which the Captain reports is higher than in past years, but similar to Q1. The 7th page shows a bar graph of call volume by hour, which, as usual, shows a slowdown between midnight and 8AM. The 8th page breaks down response times during the 2nd Quarter, with 95.8% of calls under 9 minutes, and 83.3% of calls under 6 minutes. The next two pages detail calls with a 7+ minute response time, including address, date and time, and whether the call was the 2nd or 3rd in District. The page following shows the same for calls with a 9+ minute response time. In Q2, 3 of these calls were over 20 minutes- 1 doesn't have any discernible reason, while the other two had 2nd calls in District, and Mutual Aid seems not to have been

available. Mr. Wishnie concludes, and the other Board members agree, that the Board needs to keep an eye on how often this comes up.

The next group of pages is maps and listings of all calls during the quarter, with color-coded tags on the map symbolizing the various response times (0-6 minutes show a green dot, 6-9 minutes is yellow, with red showing 9 minutes and above). Dr. Seebacher congratulates the Captain on being able to demonstrate this visually, and goes on to say that his purpose for asking for the data to be displayed this was to ascertain if the outlying areas of the District were seeing longer response times, which does not appear to be the case. He says that the sample is too small to call any groupings statistically significant, although it would be very helpful for identifying any problems areas in the future, and that may lead to a discussion about increased mutual aid.

Following the maps and logs, the statistics turn to a comparison of response times, by quarter, over the past 2 years, and then a bar graph displaying the same.

The Captain also reports on the use of the EPCR software and the "Clinical Impression Breakdown". He displays all 5 quarters during which OVAC has used the system. The category that is most often cited is "Traumatic Injury, followed closely by "Generalized Weakness", a complaint which the Captain explains leads to many lift assists.

Dr. Seebacher continues to be curious as to what course of events led to patients calling an ambulance (Did they try and contact their primary physician earlier in the day? Was their call returned?) His suggestion is that, perhaps, policies could be enacted that would require physicians to return calls within a defined period of time. If it isn't that, he wonders if perhaps the District should increase their resources. However, at this time, the Board agrees that OVAC seems to be keeping up very well with patient calls.

As far as patient age breakdown, nearly 20% of calls are for patients between 80 and 90 years old, with patients between 50 and 60 not far behind. The final page of the report breaks down OVAC Hospital Destinations- Phelps is the closest and most often visited, seconded by Westchester Medical Center. The Captain mentions that patients brought to Northern Westchester tend to come from New Castle due to proximity.

Supervisor Donnelly mentions that the Board is still in need of 2 new representatives for the Village of Ossining, and that it would be helpful to have them in place in time for the District's budget meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 22nd at 7PM, where the 3rd Quarter of 2015 will be discussed and statistics will be presented. There will also be a meeting to set the 2016 budget, which will take place on September 9th at 6PM. Supervisor Donnelly made a motion to adjourn at 7:46PM, seconded by Christina Papes.