

Ambulance District Meeting Minutes 4/18/12

7:03PM

OVAC Treasurer Alex Beck, Ossining Town Supervisor Sue Donnelly, Town Councilman Geoffrey Harter, , Town Councilman Peter Tripodi, Captain Nick Franzoso, New Castle Town Susan Carpenter, OVAC Chief Sam Lubin, Richard Wishnie, Village of Ossining Mayor Bill Hanauer, Dr. Robert Seebacher, Chief of Phelps Emergency Services Dr. Emil Nigro.

First official order of business was to accept the minutes of the 1/31/12 meeting as presented.

Dr. Seebacher asks for an update on current operations. Chief Lubin presents that things are going fantastically. They have entered into a Mutual Aid agreement with Millwood and Yorktown for the Taconic Project, which is unprecedented. To date, there have been 2 calls on scene and the system has worked well. They now have a NYS certified DOH car, which adds a paramedic into the mix.

Chief Lubin goes on to say that they are waiting to meet with Victoria Home, but have already met with the Pines at Narragansett. They have agreed to do all calls from the facilities to the hospital, and will be calling OVAC directly. This represents about 200 calls a year, which are mostly Medicare patients. This will supplement current revenue. Dr. Seebacher adds that this agreement will have enough flexibility that no patient will ever be kept waiting, so as not to jeopardize other areas.

Captain Franzoso reports that volunteerism is up- 8 volunteers were voted in in the month of March, 2 in April, and that most are in the EMT class with Phelps. After they get some road time, they can start taking calls. Driver training for 2 of these new members started last week. OVAC will also be offering free CPR and first aid training for EMS Week, to be held at OVAC. A banner for this will be up shortly. Dr. Seebacher explains that the OVAC facility has large classrooms dedicated to training, as well as dummies and "Resusci Annies". Captain Franzoso goes on to say that they will be holding an EVOC class, held by full-time EMTs who are certified as instructors. The driver training will take place in the big parking lots at Maryknoll. Mr. Wishnie mentions that lots of people who have received training have consequently joined as volunteers for OVAC, and he is excited to hear that this program is being re-instituted- people get hooked on OVAC! Supervisor Donnelly mentions that these free trainings are beneficial to other local groups as well, such as the Sailing Club.

Dr. Seebacher suggests that an ad be placed for these trainings in the next issue of Phelps' "Hospital Topics". Dr. Nigro says that this publication has a circulation of about 90,000, and that pleas for volunteerism in other areas have been somewhat successful. He explains that a basic understanding of first aid and CPR can be of use to most people, especially now that "compression-only" CPR without sharing of fluids has been approved and people no longer have to be hesitant to help out for fear of catching illness- maybe this pitch can be used to get more volunteers.

Dr. Seebacher congratulates Captain Franzoso, Chief Lubin and Treasurer Beck for bringing the organization together so rapidly, and mentions how excited he is to see a burgeoning group of volunteers. Chief Lubin mentions that they have also received their new narcotics licenses.

Supervisor Carpenter asks if Maryknoll nuns have been trained in CPR, to which Captain Franzoso responded that they have an in-house program coming up in May.

Chief Lubin reviews the performance statistics. He mentions that the frequency of all kinds of calls appear to be increasing. The first quarter saw a record 610 responses. Mayor Hanauer wonders why the Unincorporated Area has so many calls. Dr. Seebacher asks if there are any trends visible. Chief Lubin shows that the 2nd page of the report breaks down calls by type, and mentions that RMA stands for "refusal of medical aid". The 3rd page is a breakdown of the mutual aid services- there is lots of back and forth with Briarcliff and Croton. Treasurer Beck asks whether there can be a list of how many calls come in, and Chief Lubin says that this has been a question for some time, but the police don't break out how many calls they send to mutual aid. It would be possible with a new kind of blotter system. Supervisor Donnelly will ask the Police Commissioner to check on this. Chief Lubin notes the big jump in the 1st quarter, and attributes much of it to Atria. This is reliable income, and most of the residents there have medical insurance. Chief Lubin goes on to explain the tables of 2nd calls, with a percentage based against the 610 calls. The next chart is an hour-by-hour chart of incoming calls- it spikes between 7-8AM, down at 11PM. There is a second ambulance on during these times. There are lots of calls in the morning, which is aligned with when the most assets are available. The response time under 9 minutes has been 97.73%, which rivals NYC. Staff is on scene within 5-6 minutes 24% of the time. We are currently beating national standards. The last page details exclusionary criteria, which were not counted.

Croton Update- Chief Lubin explains that we are now staffing Croton 24/7 with 1 EMT, and have received no complaints. Captain Franzoso is only slightly involved in this process.

Dr. Seebacher asks for updates on the Sleepy Hollow proposal. Richard Wishnie states that there has been no meeting yet- the Village Manager has been trying to coordinate this, and it will hopefully happen soon.

Mr. Wishnie asks Dr. Nigro how many ambulances come in daily, to which he reported that they see 4600 annually, and that they follow the same general bell curve as Chief Lubin explained as far as timing is concerned. 80% of these patients get admitted, most are very labor-intensive patients, such as nursing home patients who arrive very ill. Dr. Seebacher says that Phelps has a very skilled Geriatrics department. Dr. Nigro reports that the normal staffing of the ER is 80 staff members, including 40 nurses and patient care technicians, registrars and secretaries. He notes that the Emergency Department was built entirely by donations, they raised \$21 million and it took 2.5 years of planning. Phelps has no regrets as to what was built or how, there is lots of functionality and a state of the art decontamination center due to the proximity to Indian Point. Mr. Wishnie reminds us that we need to be proud of our ambulance and hospital care- we should be bragging!

Dr. Nigro goes on to speak about the Hoch Center, which trains around 3500 people a year, and suggests this center for the next meeting, which is decided to be held on Wednesday, July 18th at 7PM. The center

has made an international footprint, and we should all be proud to have the fantastic 1-2 punch of excellent training center and emergency department.

Dr. Seebacher also mentions the new Family Practice Residency program at Phelps- 6 people will graduate this year, and they will start filling the class of 18 from the bottom up. Graduates will be practicing in our community, and the program matched within the first 28 applicants.

Mayor Hanauer motioned to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:42PM.