



City of Milwaukee

200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
53202

Meeting Minutes

AMBULANCE SERVICE BOARD

Ald. Terry Witkowski, Chair
Jeanette Kowalik, Dr. Andrew Calvert, Jeff Fleming, Dr. M.
Riccardo Colella and Robert Riepenhoff

Staff Assistant, Joanna Polanco, 286-2366, Fax: 286-3456,
jpolan@milwaukee.gov
Legislative Liaison, Adam Wickersham, 286-2170,
adam.wickersham@milwaukee.gov

Thursday, December 13, 2018

10:00 AM

Room 301-B, City Hall

1. **Call to Order at 10:06 AM**

2. **Roll Call.**

Present 6 - Witkowski, Colella, Riepenhoff, Fleming, Kowalik and Freiheit

Excused 1 - Calvert

Also present:

Pat McClain - Asst City Atty.

3. **Approval of the December 4, 2017 minutes.**

Mr. Fleming moved, seconded by Dr. Colella to approve the minutes of December 7, 2017 meeting minutes. There were no objections.

4. **Discussion relating to turn-backs.**

Appearing:
Asst Chief Schwengel - Milwaukee Fire Dept.

Asst. Schwengel provided a copy of the annual report to all members. Contract negotiation took place at the beginning of 2018, effective for the next 10-years. The turn-back rate was changed from 2% to 4% standards. Since ambulance service providers have been meeting the turn-backs standards, with the exception of few months that for a few providers numbers got into the 5%-6% range due to staffing turnover. however, they were able to put corrective measures in place to correct the issues; in summary the annual report does not reflect any significant issues relating to turn-backs.

5. **Discussion Relating to the 2018 Service Area Boundaries and the Current Ambulance Service Contract.**

Appearing:

Asst Chief Schwengel - Milwaukee Fire Dept.

Atty. Brian Randall - Rep. for Paratech and Medacare Ambulance

Asst. Schwengel said that this was the first year of a 10-year contract. It contains some boundaries restructures: Paratech has 33.5% of the service area, Medacare has 15.1%, Curtis has 24.8%, and Bell has 26.7% of the service area; the boundaries seem to be working well for all service providers. The regular meetings with the providers have been without a wrinkle, thus far.

Atty. Randall said that in an effort to providing a balanced and proportionate service to the citizens of the City of Milwaukee, the Fire Department and all providers should monitor their service boundaries in the event that any changes are needed. Suggestions or recommendations can be presented before the Ambulance Service Board.

6. Discussion of Circumstances in which a BLS Service Call is Determined to be an ALS Service Call and the Responding Crew is ALS Trained and Certified.

Appearing:

Asst Chief Schwengel - Milwaukee Fire Dept.

Dr. Colella

Chief Rohlfiing - Milwaukee Fire Dept Chief

Asst Schwengel reviewed the statistics of the dipatch in which there may have been two circumstances where this situation may occur; one is when a private provider gets a call through their provider line and two when the call comes through the 9-1-1 system; in the latter scenario, dispatch would triage the call to determine if it is BLS based on the information provided by caller. Once the BLS arrives at the scene and they assessed the situation, if they find out more information not provided when call came in originally than, they need to call for A BLS crew. In the last 12-calendar months, this has happened less than 2-3 times; however, the contract has a provision where if an ambulance provider has an ALS crew and dispatch sees they can't provide ALS service, call for the Milwaukee Fire Department to do the transport, but if they are ready to make the transport and it is medically necessary for patient to get to the hospital, ALS crew may go ahead with the transport and contact dispatch to inform of the change.

Dr. Colella reiterated that when this scenarios do happened, the obligation of the private provider is to notify the communication center so it can be track from a Load-and-Go perspective. it is important to understand what the percentage represents. If is high, systematically it would suggest that there is a problem somewhere that needs to be addressed from a quality assurance process. These cases are not very frequent, said Dr. Colella.

Chief Rohlfiing also expressed to the committee that the Fire Department realizes that although the ALS units can be very busy, their focused is always the best care for the patient. So even when the call is noted as an ALS service request and the Medical units can not be there in the appropriate amount of time, they also have the authority to take individuals to the hospital. This does not happen very often, said the chief.

7. [181043](#)

Resolution relating to certification of ambulance service providers for the citywide emergency medical service system.

Appearing:

Asst Chief Schwengel - Milwaukee Fire Dept.

Dr. Colella moved that the certification of ambulance service providers be referred to the Public Safety and Health Committee for final approval.

**A motion was made by M. Ricardo Colella that this Resolution be ADOPTED.
This motion PREVAILED by the following vote:**

Aye 5 - Baker, Riepenhoff, Witkowski, Colella and Fleming

No 0

Absent 1 - Calvert

8. Meeting adjourned at 10:19AM

Joanna Polanco

Staff Assistant

In the event that Common Council members who are not members of this committee attend this meeting, this meeting may also simultaneously constitute a meeting of the Common Council or any of the following committees: Community and Economic Development, Finance and Personnel, Judiciary and Legislation, Licenses, Public Safety, Public Works, Zoning, Neighborhoods & Development, and/or Steering and Rules. Whether a simultaneous meeting is occurring depends on whether the presence of one or more of the Common Council member results in a quorum of the Common Council or any of the above committees, and, if there is a quorum of another committee, whether any agenda items listed above involve matters within that committee's realm of authority. In the event that a simultaneous meeting is occurring, no action other than information gathering will be taken at the simultaneous meeting.

Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities through sign language interpreters or auxiliary aids. For additional information or to request this service, contact the City Clerk's Office ADA Coordinator at 286-2998, (FAX)286-3456, (TDD)286-2025 or by writing to the Coordinator at Room 205, City Hall, 200 E. Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

Limited parking for persons attending meetings in City Hall is available at reduced rates (5 hour limit) at the Milwaukee Center on the southwest corner of East Kilbourn and North Water Street. Parking tickets must be validated in the first floor Information Booth in City Hall.

Persons engaged in lobbying as defined in s. 305-43-4 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances are required to register with the City Clerk's Office License Division. Registered lobbyists appearing before a Common Council committee are required to identify themselves as such. More information is available at <http://city.milwaukee.gov/Lobbying>.