

Greene County Ambulance Review Study Meeting No. 3

Minutes Summary

Wednesday, December 11, 2024, 6:00 P.M.

Cairo-Durham Elementary School

Greene County EMS Evaluation Committee Membership and Ambulance Policy Group:

Steven Near, Beau Dushane, Gerard Laird, Davia Montie, George June, Nadine Myrdycz, Mark Evans, Sean Hotaling, Jim DiPerna, Shaun S. Groden, Patrick S. Linger, Matthew Luvera, Harry Lennon, Tom Hobart, Charles Martinez, Greg Davis, Laney Bruck, Greg Cross, John Bensen, Paul Macko, Tom Hoyt, Michael Bulich, Jay Lucas, Daryl Legg, James O'Connell, Michael Lanuto, Sherry True, Patty Handel, Michael Pirrone, John Farrell Jr., Dolph Semenza, Tami Bone, Warren Hart, Patty McAneny, Pete Kusminsky, Ray Ward, Debra Bogins, Aiden O'Connor, Jared Giordiano, Keith Valentine, Roger Hannigan-Gilson, Michael Ryan, Kevin Forbes, Tanya Ernst

Synopsis:

New binder materials were picked up by attendees upon entering the meeting. Chairman Linger opened Ambulance Review Study Meeting No. 3 at 6:05 p.m. and asked if there were any questions, hearing no response, he turned the meeting over to County Administrator, Shaun S. Groden.

Mr. Groden reviewed each of the binder materials including: November 13th, Meeting No. 2 Minutes Summary, NYSDOH – EMS Workforce Shortage Report, Fleet and Equipment Inventory Data Sheet Questionnaires, Facility Inventory Data Sheet, Emergency Medical Technician and Paramedic Civil Service Titles and Descriptions, NYSDOH Medical Supply Policy Statement, and Best Practice Example of Medical Supply Inventory List, and the Meeting No. 3 Agenda.

Mr. Groden briefly discussed the recommended purchasing consortium recommended by Fitch & Associates with the County acting as the facilitator and distributor of supplies in order to bring unit pricing down.

Attendees were made aware that fleet and equipment inventory and facility questionnaires would be distributed the following day via email; they were asked to complete them digitally by utilizing the link provided.

Chairman Linger expressed his concern regarding the sustainability of the current ambulance system in Greene County.

A number of the Greene County Legislators sought commitment from the towns prior to moving forward with a consolidated countywide system.

Town Supervisors responded that they were not sure what they were signing up for as they didn't know what a consolidated countywide ambulance system would look like and how it would function.

There was discussion between the Legislators and some town board members regarding possible financial scenarios with a countywide consolidated system.

Jim DiPerna informed attendees that when the mobile CAD system is logged into, there is an automatic feature built into the system which eliminates reliance on secondary devices.

Mr. Groden discussed territories and overall system design. There was some discussion regarding response times, however, a number of paramedics stressed that response times shouldn't be the primary concern at this time but rather that a shortage of paramedics and EMT's is and will continue to be the bigger obstacle.

There was lengthy discussion regarding payrate, benefits, recruitment, retention, and the suggestion of a scholarship program paid for by the County for paramedic training with a work commitment contract. Attendees were reminded that there is currently a scholarship program in place for EMT training.

Greene County Legislators and Shaun Groden offered some possible solutions to attract emergency medical services personnel including an increase in payrate, health insurance benefits, retirement, and a career path that a consolidated countywide system could offer.

Shaun Groden and a number of Legislators suggested that the Greene County EMS Evaluation Committee should meet prior to the next Ambulance Review Study Meeting.

Chairman Linger noted that the County could facilitate a purchasing consortium and begin work on the Certificate of Need (CON) process.