

Greene County Ambulance Review Study Meeting No. 2

Minutes Summary

Wednesday, November 13, 2024, 6:00 P.M.

Greene County 911 Center, 25 Volunteer Drive, Cairo, NY

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, Neil Kellegher, Shaun S. Groden, Patrick S. Linger, Matthew Luvera, Harry Lennon, Tom Hobart, Charles Martinez, Edward Bloomer, James Thorington, Greg Davis, Richard E. Tompkins, Patrick McCulloch, John Bensen, Sean Mahoney, Greg Cross, Laney Bruck, Todd Sheridan

Also Attending:

Michael Bulich, Jay Lucas, Daryl Legg, James O'Connell, Michael Lanuto, Michael Pirrone, Dan King, John Farrell Jr., Dolph Semenza, Paul Macko, Warren Hart, Patty McAneny, Pete Kusminsky, Ray Ward, Debra Bogins, Travis Witbeck, Cliff Powell, Keith Valentine, Mike Ryan, Kevin Forbes, Tanya Ernst

Synopsis:

Chairman Linger opened Ambulance Review Study Meeting No. 2 at 6:00 p.m. and remarked about the good feedback that had been received and asked if there were Options that could be moved forward on or if there were any that should be dropped.

Binders were distributed to anyone who requested one.

Meeting No. 1 Minutes were distributed and each of the four Addendums attached to the Meeting Summary were reviewed including:

- a. Existing "Paper" Personnel Outline
- b. Multiple Agency Work Shifts – Who Works Where?
- c. Administrative Staff
- d. Fitch & Associates Slide - Evaluation of Current System

The Glossary of Terms was distributed along with the updated attendance sheet.

The venue change for December 11th, 2024 was reviewed with the new venue to be determined. The January 8th, 2024 meeting will be held at Cairo-Durham High School.

Todd Sheridan from Fitch & Associates reviewed the difference between 90th percentile response times versus average response times and explained that the challenge point with an average is that there's a 100 percent chance of being 50 percent wrong. Five times out of ten, you'll get there within that average. Using eight minutes as an average, five times out of ten, you're going to be

over eight minutes. Outliers can be a 5-minute response time or a 20-minute response time. System design is looking at the 90th percentile meaning nine out of ten times, you performed within this standard. We can only be wrong one out of ten times.

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 to move forward if Option 3a is the chosen option.

A number of Town Supervisors stressed the importance of protecting their ambulance workers; any workers who are currently in the New York State Retirement system must remain in the New York State Retirement system.

A CAD system could begin immediately along with centralized purchasing of ambulance supplies and equipment.

An audience member pointed out that some ambulance workers are working 70 hours a week or working three days straight. If you go to a countywide system, there will be more control over that scenario.

Privately owned ambulances expressed their opinions and concerns regarding how they would fit into a countywide ambulance system.

Chairman Linger noted that it may be necessary to engage Fitch & Associates for further consulting studies.

Chairman Linger also suggested taking the existing figures that towns are spending for ambulance service and use that number as a town contribution that would be capped. Each year, the towns would submit that amount to the County to help pay for the countywide system.

Questions & Answers:

1. Regarding Addendum #4, how many rigs or units were used to come up with the times and how they were split up?

8 to 8 1/2 units broken up as follows:

- River region – 3 trucks 24/7 with 1 twelve-hour truck
- Valley – 2 trucks 24/7
- Mountain – 3 trucks- 24/7

In total for the entire system there would be 8 trucks 24/7 and one 12-hour truck 7 days a week.

2. 8.5 vehicles are not enough.

The ratio in a station-based system design would be a minimum of 1.5 of the highest number of units that will be staffed during the day.

8.5 x 1.5 rounded up is a minimum of 14 rolling assets not staffed but flexible for seasonality, high call volume, and vehicle maintenance.

3. How many county employees are there right now that are in the New York State Retirement System?
Approximately 525
4. How many full-time employees would it take to run a countywide system?
88 full-time employees with the caveat of whether you want to do 12-hour or 24-hour shifts. If you want to do 12-hour shifts, you will have more employees than you would need than if you do 24-hour shifts. With 12-hour shifts, you're expecting they can work harder since they're going home at night.
5. How long will the transition process take of going to a centralized countywide system take?
One to two years.
6. How would the towns' assets be handled if moving forward to a countywide system?
We would need to compile the data of how many rigs, how much debt, what is in the rigs, it's age, etc.