



## Milwaukee County Council on Emergency Medical Services

Chair:	Supervisor Deanna Alexander	414-278-4259
Vice Chair:	Chief Robert Whitaker	414-357-0113 x1117
Admin Support:	Kevin Shermach	414-226-7302

### MEETING MINUTES

**8:30a.m. - 10:00a.m. - Wednesday, November 29, 2017**

**Location: Wauwatosa Fire Department, 1601 N. Underwood Ave., Wauwatosa**

#### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Supervisor Deanna Alexander	<i>Council Chair</i>
Chief Robert Whitaker	<i>Council Vice-Chair</i>
Chief Michael Jankowski	<i>BLS Fire Chief Representative</i>
DC Steven Riegg	<i>Milwaukee Fire Chief Designee</i>
Lt. Jerry Biggart	<i>State Representative</i>
Kenneth J. Sternig	<i>OEM-EMS</i>
Dr. Riccardo Colella	<i>OEM-EMS Medical Director</i>
Jim Terrell	<i>Hospital Association Representative</i>
Mayor John Hohenfeldt	<i>ICC Representative</i>
Mayor Steve Olson	<i>ICC Representative</i>
Ann Christiansen	<i>Community Representative</i>
Lynn Schubert	<i>Community Representative</i>
Samantha Maldonado	<i>Community Representative</i>

#### GUESTS

DC Stacey Lueptow	Wauwatosa Fire Department
AC Scott Erke	Wauwatosa Fire Department
AC Kurt Zellmann	West Allis Fire Department
Capt. Zach Menden	Hales Corners Fire Department
Lt. Michael Buckhalter	St. Francis Fire Department
Mary Mattila	Froedtert - Moorland Reserve
Peter Siegmann	Froedtert Hospital
Stephanie Leranthe	Department of Transportation
Priyanka Biswas	Office of Emergency Management
Andy Irzyk	Office of Emergency Management
Linda Mattrisch	Office of Emergency Management
Dan Pojar	Office of Emergency Management
Marty Rukavina	Office of Emergency Management
Kevin Shermach	Office of Emergency Management
William Soderbeck	Office of Emergency Management

#### EXCUSED

Director Christine Westrich	<i>Office of Emergency Management</i>	BC Daniel Weber	<i>Paramedic Representative</i>
Chief Robert Ugaste	<i>ALS Fire Chief Representative</i>	FF/P Ryan Wendt	<i>Paramedic Representative</i>
Russell Spahn	<i>MATC Representative</i>	Chris Anderson	<i>Private Provider Representative</i>
François Riedijk	<i>Community Representative</i>	Larry Knuth	<i>Private Provider Representative</i>

### Call to Order, Attendance & Introductions

Supervisor Alexander called the meeting to order at 8:39am, welcomed all and asked for introductions. A quorum was present.

### Approval of Draft Minutes from October 4, 2017

Mayor Olson moved to approve, Mayor Hohenfeldt seconded and the motion carried unanimously with one change: retitling from "Meeting Agenda" to "Meeting Minutes".

## Recurring Reports & Past Business

### 1) **Discussion of Milwaukee County Budget, Focusing on EMS** *(Hon. Deanna Alexander, EMS Council Chair)*

Supervisor Alexander reported that Milwaukee County's 2018 budget is final, with no vetoes. In brief, she shared that media coverage during the budget process were related to debates on the wheel tax, despite her and other supervisors' best efforts to bring attention to what funding County departments need. There were three different budgets on the table, proposed by County Executive Abele, Chairman Lipscomb and Supervisor Alexander. The main difference between the latter two was how to bridge the funding gap, whether by across-the-board 0.75% cut to each department's discretionary funding (Chairman Lipscomb) or prioritizing public safety services and other vital services (Alexander). There was no debate on the third plan, which received three votes. Before passing his version, Chairman Lipscomb added a paragraph directing all departments to not make any cuts to services in addressing the budget reduction.

Mr. Sternig shared on behalf of Director Westrich that the 2018 adopted budget includes a tax levy cut for OEM's EMS Division by \$55,900; as a result, OEM will no longer fund EMT-P students at MATC, rather the Fire Departments will be responsible for this expense.

Supervisor Alexander said that the County Board has been warned that the hole in the 2019 budget will be even larger; the County has a structural deficit that needs to be addressed practically. She compared the County budget to a household budget and noted that while a head of household could get a second job to close their budget gap, the County must cut its expenses. The hole this year without a wheel tax was \$15 million; in 2019 it will be \$55 million, which would require a \$110 increase to the wheel tax. She believes there is no option under current state law for the County Executive to propose maintaining services without an increase to the wheel tax, which her constituents are against.

Mayor Hohenfeldt recalled that two years ago, Director Westrich was saying OEM had to "do more with less", but now the directive is to "do less with less" and might some day become "do lesser with less." From his perspective as an elected official, the problem with the County's \$55,000 cut in training comes when the fire chief turns to his mayor for more money and in turn, the whole system falls apart. While this isn't a mandated service, it's certainly a valuable service and is the County pipeline of trained EMS providers.

Mayor Olson noted that training is what the municipalities are paying OEM to do, and it can't take away the services it was created to deliver instead of making a tough decision like eliminating jobs. He predicted that the County EMS system would be dead in two years, because municipalities like Franklin and Cudahy will no longer pay for something from which they derive no value.

Supervisor Alexander noted that she is willing to eliminate funding for "nice to have" County cultural entities in order to maintain elementary services like public safety and EMS; in her experience there are a number of County Board supervisors unwilling or incapable of prioritizing essential services and making difficult decisions.

Mayor Hohenfeldt urged that the time is now to start educating the County Board on the value of the EMS program to protect future funding, not to wait until a budget is proposed or when statutory cuts are implemented.

Mayor Olson asked what the priorities are, and advised that the EMS Council take a hard look at the EMS program and determine whether it's worth having it centralized as a County program. It used to be the gold standard, but with cuts to education, it's not anymore. He noted that the

failing County government can't dig itself out of the hole because the people responsible for making the decisions don't make tough decisions.

Supervisor Alexander noted that public hearings on the County budget sparsely attended, but issues that receive vocal public advocacy in that setting are relatively safe from cuts, due to the perception of significant public support. She added that with the election season opening soon, it might be appropriate to ask candidates of their position on EMS, perhaps via a candidate forum hosted by a non-governmental organization, establishing a record to which they would be held accountable.

Mr. Sternig asked to clarify that the \$55,000 tax levy hit was the payment to MATC's School of Technology & Applied Sciences for new paramedics to be educated, which only affects MFD. Most municipal Fire Departments hire paramedics already educated and credentialed by MATC, WCTC or another technical school. The cut does not affect continuing education: OEM has maintained its continuing education levels, and instead of choosing to eliminate the vacant continuing education Instructor position, OEM is actively recruiting for it.

Supervisor Alexander concluded that the most productive action for the Council in the near term would be to hear from Director Westrich on her past decisions on where to cut, alternatives she considered, and what does she foresee for the next budget and the challenges she expects to face.

2) **OEM Updates**  
*(Kenneth Sternig, OEM-EMS Division Director)*

Recruitment continues through December 2 for 911 Division Director and Emergency Management Division Director. One of the EMS Division's performance management goals—establishing a collaborative group of five likeminded EMS systems—has been met with the creation of the Performance Consortium Collaborative. The group—consisting of OEM, Cincinnati [OH] Fire Department, Columbus [OH] Division of Fire, Sedgwick County [KS] EMS, Madison [WI] Fire Department and EMS of Seattle & King County [WA]—had its first meeting in early September and will meet quarterly to share best practices towards system improvement.

3) **Communications/Operations**  
*(Kenneth Sternig, OEM-EMS Division Director)*

The addition of Linda Mattrisch as QA Supervisor ends a long period of vacancy in that critical role. The rollout of the Pulsara pre-hospital reporting tool continues with educating representatives from healthcare systems and their ED leadership; OEM-EMS and Pulsara reps will meet with Fire Department executives and IT leads on December 14. Receiving hospital agreements are being extended through July 2018, with a plan to replace with a comprehensive multi-year agreement. Recruitment for one EMS Instructor position continues, but the current team is meeting required training levels.

4) **EMS Education**  
*(Dan Pojar, OEM-EMS Clinical Education & QA Manager)*

The team is streamlining systems to become more efficient and effective, emphasizing face-to-face training and development and more realistic scenarios. Subject matter experts will be brought in regularly for traditional lectures, which will be recorded live and then shared more broadly. Mr. Sternig reported a positive, if frank, dialogue on the continuing education needs of the field provider at OEM-EMS's Education Summit on November 7.

5) **Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH)**

There was no report.

6) **Health Information Management (HIM) & Data Analytics**

*(Priyanka Biswas, OEM-EMS Analytics Program Manager)*

Regarding the national CARES Registry, Ms. Biswas is conducting both manual and automated data entry with the goal of going live in January. MFD has been the priority, accounting for 60% of cases. The focus will then turn to the other municipal Fire Departments. Enhanced data capture is now available in Image Trend as OEM moves to NEMSISv3, and the team has been discussing OEM's capabilities with MCW and other stakeholders. Controlled substance tracking with Operative IQ is now live, providing fingerprint security for drug tracking.

7) **Quality Assurance (QA)**

*(Linda Mattrisch, OEM-EMS Quality Assurance Supervisor)*

Ms. Mattrisch introduced herself as a new member of the OEM team, bringing 30 years of experience as an MFD firefighter/paramedic and a commitment to providing quality care. She is in the process of evaluating current QA processes and the supply chain. Ms. Christiansen asked if there was a QA plan that is being operationalized; Dr. Colella responded that a QA plan exists, but has not been implemented due to staff turnover and vacancy in OEM's QA roles.

8) **Medical Director**

*(Dr. M. Riccardo Colella, EMS Medical Director)*

The PART trial—testing the efficacy of two airway types—has ended, with Milwaukee County enrolling the second most cases among participating agencies. Dr. Colella thanked the Council for its continued support of critical research, and promised to share the complete report. EMS Liaisons have been asked for input on new research initiatives for 2018. State legislature is debating requirements for equipment on ambulances, in [Chapter Trans 309](#); currently it is only presumed that every ambulance operating in the state has every tool required. Gov. Walker recently signed a community paramedicine bill, which the state Department of Health Services will translate for implementation.

9) **State EMS Board**

*(Lt. Jerry Biggart, Wisconsin EMS Board Chair)*

The first EMS Day at the state capitol was a success, with 105 stakeholders meeting with their local representatives. Legislation has been introduced on mandatory minimums, which would allow agencies to adjust care levels depending on the staffing; unfortunately, this usually results in agencies looking to exceed their scope, not downgrade. Pediatric do-not-resuscitate orders (DNRs) have been discussed as necessary, but are not politically viable. There is a need to advocate for the AHA's hands-only CPR to make it available to everyone in the state. A meeting on December 6 aims to adopt a universal CQI structure for handling errors at designated trauma centers. AHA's significant increase to the cost of Heartsaver cards from \$2.50 to \$17.00 has hit agencies hard. The State EMS Board is looking to meet with AHA regarding this increase to card costs, which most find unacceptable. The Board is pursuing an increase in Medicaid billing rates; the last was a decade ago, a mere 1%. Opioid initiatives are top priorities, including ensuring

every law enforcement officer is trained on proper ventilation with bag valves and masks in addition to administering naloxone. A recent rural health study showed first responders rank dead last in mental health and wellbeing, an historic weakness in the industry. Also being discussed is immunity for providers who don't render medical attention to sick and injured pets.

10) **Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition (HERC)**  
*(Lynn Schubert, Aurora Health Care)*

HERC's annual meeting was held on November 28, with a new vice-chair, treasurer and secretary elected. Beginning in January, meetings will be held in alternating months. Some grant funds will carry over to 2018, so proposals from partner agencies are welcome. Weekly WISCOM drills for all hospitals are scheduled to foster staff familiarity with using the radios. Still searching for a participating hospital for the first of five required annual evacuation tabletop exercises.

11) **Intergovernmental Cooperation Council (ICC)**  
*(Hon. John Hohenfeldt, Mayor, City of Cudahy)*  
*(Hon. Steve Olson, Mayor, City of Franklin)*

The state Department of Revenue is considering changes to the expenditure restraint program, which has changed its methodology for calculating state aid payments against how much the municipality spends. Instead of reducing budget and making up a shortfall with state aid, the state aid level will be reduced by the same amount, creating a near impossible balance. Supervisor Alexander added that when you connect those provisions with federal provisions, municipalities are required to spend as much as they used to. In December, municipalities will start aggressively fighting the so-called "dark store" issue, through which retailers sue to reduce their property tax assessments to match comparable vacant properties' rates. Wauwatosa and Franklin in particular have been dramatically affected, with significant tax revenue losses as a result.

12) **Department of Transportation (DOT)**  
*(Stephanie Leranth, DOT Construction Program Work Zone & Traffic Engineer)*

Ms. Leranth reported on short- and long-term lane and ramp closures related to the Zoo Interchange; lane reductions on I-894 between Oklahoma and the Hale Interchange; repairs to the Ryan Road overpass; and routine maintenance on the Marquette Interchange.

13) **Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC)**  
*(Russ Spahn, Associate Dean, MATC)*

In Mr. Spahn's absence, there was no report.

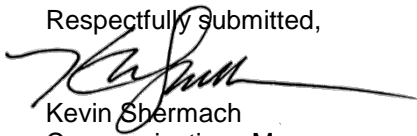
## Announcements

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 21, 2018; 8:30a.m. - 10:30a.m.  
Location: Wauwatosa Fire Department; 1601 N. Underwood Ave.; Wauwatosa

## Adjournment

Supervisor Alexander adjourned the meeting at 1028.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Shermach  
Communications Manager  
Office of Emergency Management

DRAFT