

Dutchess County Citizen's Advisory Committee Minutes January 25, 2019

Present: Dana Smith, John Mahoney, Dennis Quinn, Ken Roman, Tim Murphy, Chris Howard, David Violante, Chris Maeder, Jimmy Pearson, Cathi Tegtmeier, Laurie Colgan

Members of the Education sub-committee are: John Mahoney, Chris Maeder, Chris Howard, Dana Smith, and Tim Murphy.

The Public Information sub-committee members are: Cathi Tegtmeier, Dennis Quinn, Dave Violante, John Mahoney

Regarding the EMS problems-Jim suggested out what the public perception of this problem is. Dave stated that the sentiment at the upstate Regional EMS Council is that the EMS crisis is beyond crisis. It was also stated that the public doesn't have a concept of how EMS services work.

Paramedic programs were discussed. There is only one paramedic program in the area. Graduation of paramedics in the area went from 60 down to 6. Dana would like to know the failure rate of paramedic classes.

It was stated that it all comes down to money. Some paramedics start at 37k per year. Public safety Dispatcher Trainees start at 47k and ten go up to 52K in a year plus yearly steps after that. It was noted that salaries are too low for paramedics.

It appears this all comes down to money. What if EMS was an essential service? Many municipalities can't afford to pay, Therefore-what is the solution.

1. An EMS Authority. This would take a long time to create. However, the RFP to help with an authority is due back shortly. There are rumors that an authority is being formed.
2. An authority would give a standard approach to the county.
3. Push for prevailing wage. The County (as an exercise) will develop a pay grade for EMS. Dana will follow up with HR on this.

The Authority and prevailing wages are a good idea, but the cost will eventually be passed to the public.

4. The County taking over EMS is not a good solution unless there is no other solution. Although EMS is not the responsibility of county government, we are aware of the problem and held to look for potential solutions.

To take EMS away from communities would be difficult.

5. Q-have any other organizations gone through this? A-Nursing
6. The people of this committee have developed many solutions to various issues and have the experience to do this.

7. Could candidates be hired and then pay for their schooling? Programs can take a long time to complete. Dave met with DCC and they are working on a paramedic program. A paramedic program could be credit or credit free.
8. As this is all new we can make the Authority anything we want it to be, which is good but can also be risky.
9. We can speak with an MTA Authority member regarding their authority.
10. We should look at the Task Force report, what is said about an authority, and come up with a mantra.

Officers for this committee were chosen.

Chair is Dennis Quinn, Vice Chair is Tim Murphy

To clarify the rolls of these officers and avoid conflicts of interest, John will look up and send out the State Emergency Medical By-Laws and Rolls and send out to the committee.

Tim stated we need two meetings, one for immediate need and one for long term.

For short term could we declare a public health emergency and then get a Municipal CON?

We could have a county-wide CON for 2 years and then contract out. The County can move people as needed. The County can bill.

How do we go about getting a Municipal BLS CON? Can we put a package together showing who, what, when, where, and why? Chris M. and Dave will do this.

If the county has a CON, the Authority would eventually be a DBA.

*John will do a doodle poll.

*John will send out State Emergency Medical By-Laws and Rolls.

*Cathi and Jimmy will work on the survey.

*Chris and Dave will work on CON. (John will help as needed)

*Laurie will send the 911 oversight committee by laws to John.

*Dana will contact Jamie from the MTA.

*We will request a copy of the Patterson Plan.

Our next meeting will be held Monday, March 4 @ DCER from 11:30-1:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Laurie Colgan