



Emergency Medical Services Trust Fund Advisory Board

Meeting date and time: *Wednesday, August 13, 2008; 9:00 a.m.*
Meeting location: *Daytona State College, Building 420, Room 159*

Attendees:

Stephan Dembinsky, Volusia County Police Chief's Association
Sheila Ellison attending for Lou Mercer, Daytona State College
Mr. Michael Mellon, Emergency Medical Foundation, Inc.
Rocky Norris, Volusia County Sheriff's Department
Russell Rafferty, Volusia County Fire Chief's Association
Peter C. Springer, M.D., Volusia County EMS Medical Director
Tracy Weiner, D.O., Florida Hospital – DeLand
Mark D. Wolcott, Volusia County Emergency Medical Services (Chair)

The meeting was called to order at 9:00. Minutes from the August 9, 2007 meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Mellon and seconded by Dr. Weiner. Aye's carried the motion unanimously.

The Chair provided a financial summary:

Description	Amount
Fund balance	\$37,803
Interest	\$2,500
Anticipated available funds (2008-09)	\$140,925
Total	\$181,228

Mr. Mellon opened discussion asking the committee members to consider the possibility of the County Council expending trust fund monies on a study of the emergency medical and fire system in lieu of the City of Daytona Beach seeking a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN) for advanced life support transport.

Motion by Mr. Mellon: *Include in letter of transmittal to Volusia County Council verbiage to express the Committee's recommended and prioritized expenditures prefaced with an acknowledgement of the County Council's prerogative to expend available funds on the above referenced study.*

The motion was seconded by Mr. Dembinsky. Aye's carried the motion unanimously.

Mr. Rafferty opened for discussion the need for the Advisory Board to establish new priorities. While advanced life support upgrades have been the long standing priority of the committee,

aside from the City of DeLand or further expansion by existing agencies, the demand for these projects appear to be diminishing.

It was recognized by a number of members that requests in recent cycles have been recurring and, in some instances, are clearly replacement items.

Due to the long-term funding implications of the AutoPulse, there was discussion that this item not be funded until priorities could be established. Mr. Rafferty indicated that the matching grant process seemed to be funding these devices. All members agreed that funding these requests could potentially set the course of expending future monies with a number of agencies within the county not presently utilizing the device.

Motion by Mr. Rafferty: *AutoPulse devices not be funded through the EMS Trust Fund.*

The motion was seconded by Dr. Weiner. Aye's carried the motion unanimously.

There was discussion regarding the request for bariatric platforms for ambulance stretchers submitted by EVAC Ambulance. Consensus of the group was that it was a project worthy of consideration however; Mr. Rafferty queried the number of units that were being sought. Mr. Mellon shared that of the eight requested, four would be deployed at stations in different quadrants and the balance would be distributed to various supervisory vehicles. Mr. Rafferty further questioned the number of mounting hardware requests. Mr. Mellon replied that that number corresponded to the total number of stretchers maintained by the Foundation. Since stretchers are frequently swapped among units for maintenance or various other reasons, equipping all with the mounting hardware was necessary.

Motion by Mr. Rafferty: *Award four (4) large surface area bariatric platforms at \$1,229/each and the requested forty-eight (48) mounting hardware kits at \$114.66/each to EVAC Ambulance.*

The motion was seconded by Mr. Mellon. Aye's carried the motion unanimously.

Next discussion took place specific to the 12 lead ECG trainer grant submitted by EVAC Ambulance. Dr. Springer voiced support for this grant that parallels the STEMI Alert program initiated earlier this year. Others' echoed the importance of repetitive training and the impact on a paramedic's ability to retain the skill.

Motion by Mr. Wolcott: *Award two 12 lead ECG trainers at \$8,299/each to EVAC Ambulance with the caveat that the trainers are made available to all providers within the County on a loaner basis and that the utilization of the device is accounted for in the first year following purchase.*

The motion was seconded by Mr. Rafferty. Aye's carried the motion unanimously.

Next discussion took place specific to the 12 lead ECG transmission grant submitted by the City of Port Orange. Mr. Rafferty shared that this enhancement would provide the bridge from analog to digital transmission. Included in the grant request are cables for all agencies utilizing Medtronic LIFEPAK 12 devices.

Dr. Weiner supported this program since physician interpretation prior to the patient's arrival in the emergency department is strongly supported by the emergency physician community.

Mr. Mellon queried as to how the transmission took place. Mr. Rafferty responded that it occurred through cellular service. Based upon lack of cellular devices on ambulances, Mr. Mellon offered support for any motion providing EVAC's number were backed out of the request due to lack of cellular service.

Motion by Dr. Weiner: *Award fifteen (15) 12 lead ECG digital transmission cables at \$145/each to the City of Port Orange.*

The motion was seconded by Mr. Rafferty. Aye's carried the motion unanimously.

Refresher training submitted by the City of Port Orange was discussed next. Mr. Rafferty shared with the committee that the intent of the program was to parallel the successful efforts made by the Volusia County Fire Chief's Association Fire Training subcommittee. This effort would be open to any agency that wished to participate. Driving unit costs down is the lack of instructor hours from Daytona State College. The instructor hours would be acquired through the cooperative efforts of all agencies involved.

Motion by Mr. Mellon: *Award \$30,000 as requested for EMS refresher training to be managed by the City of Port Orange for countywide EMS training.*

The motion was seconded by Mr. Norris. Aye's carried the motion unanimously.

All remaining projects were unfunded as no support was expressed.

Following discussion of requested projects, The Trust Fund Advisory Board unanimously agreed to the need for a workshop later this calendar year for the purpose of discussing new priorities for future grant cycles. Furthermore, the committee felt an additional workshop involving all agencies within the county should be made available to share expectations of the committee with applicants and outline the supporting documentation that the committee feels important when reviewing such projects.

The meeting was adjourned

September 3, 2008: Upon compilation of the grant awards following the August 13 meeting, a line item within the Port Orange Fire Rescue's "EMS Refresher Training" application was reviewed and the line item "Transportation Cost" raised some concern. In late August, I spoke with Mr. Rafferty regarding the matter and at his request I contacted Alan Van Lewen at the Bureau of EMS and he concurred that the line item in question was a recurring expense and is not eligible for funding. Based upon this conversation, the motion to award \$30,000 to Port Orange Fire Rescue was adjusted to \$27,500 by the Chair. (Wolcott)