

**BLAINE COUNTY AMBULANCE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MARCH 2022 SESSION**

**Ambulance District Strategic Planning Workshop**

**Thursday, March 24, 2022**

Pursuant to Statutory Provisions, the Blaine County Ambulance District Commissioners met this day at 1:30 p.m. Present were Dick Fosbury, Angenie McCleary, Muffy Davis; Recording Secretary Sunny Grant and Deputy Clerk-Auditor-Recorder Joana Guerrero. Blaine County Administrator Mandy Pomeroy and County Clerk Stephen McDougall Graham, Blaine County Security Engineer Jon Eaton, Sun Valley Fire Chief Taan Robrahn, Ketchum Fire Chief Bill McLaughlin, WRFR Operations Chief Bass Sears, Wood River Fire and Rescue Chief Ron Bateman, Sun Valley City Administrator Walt Femling, North Blaine County Fire District Chief and Sun Valley Fire Department Assistant Chief Rich Bauer, Carey Rural Fire Chief Richard Kimball, Linda Haavik.

Some participants in this meeting were by web conference or teleconference.

Chairman Fosbury called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**Ambulance District Strategic Planning Workshop**

**McCleary moved, seconded by Davis, to convene as The Blaine County Ambulance District Board. Motion passed unanimously.**

County Administrator Mandy Pomeroy formally introduced The Blaine County Ambulance District attendees and informed The Ambulance District Board that Doctor Terry O'Connor will not be able to attend this meeting. Pomeroy gave a brief history of the strategic planning process of The Ambulance District. The strategic planning process was undertaken to identify the strengths, weaknesses and needs of each jurisdiction, and to create a strategic plan for the Ambulance District that can be modified as needed.

**Environmental Scan:** County Administrator Mandy Pomeroy read off the lists below.

- **Strengths:** Page 58
  - Commitment to the community
  - Desire to excel in service
  - Community involvement
  - Excellent staff retention
  - Willingness to grow/improve
  - Excel in technical knowledge
  - Community support
  - Outstanding Medical Director/Control
- **Weakness**
  - Lack of self-awareness (leadership vs. management)
  - Overutilization of providers/responder burnout
  - Divisiveness • Emotional rather than objective decisions
  - Inexperienced providers
  - Inadequate resource allocation
  - Territorial
  - Lack of adequate data-driven decisions
  - Exceeding span of control
  - Inadequate staffing
- **Opportunities:** Page 59
  - Public willingness to promote EMS (financial, education)
  - Public education
  - Diversity (gender)
  - Community Health programs/Community Medicine/Mobile Integrated Health
  - Collaboration (resources, staff, training, equipment/facilities)
  - Initial EMS training (certification)/Continuing education and clinical opportunities
  - Succession planning • Reduce duplication of services
  - Opportunity to gather community input
  - Expanding EMS providers/systems
- **Threats**
  - Staffing (Issues with recruitment, retention, staffing pool)
  - Affordable housing for responders • Resistance to change
  - Change in community demographics (increased aging population)
  - Potential divisions and fragmentation of the system
  - Inadequate distribution of resources
  - Rapid growth • Public perception and communication limitations
  - The necessity for accurate real-time data
  - More strategic vs. operational
  - Need to “move forward”

**Initiative 1: Ensure Technical Competency of EMS Providers** – *Dr. Terry O'Connor- not present*

- **Goal 1A: Develop Coordinate Regional EMS Training Program** - *Ketchum Fire Chief Bill McLaughlin, Ketchum Fire Department Lieutenant/Medic Lara McLean &, Katie Feris – not present*

The Ambulance District sets aside funds for EMS training, unfortunately due to pandemic they stopped convening for two years and would like for meetings to be reestablished. The Paramedic Community and EMS Community have two separate trainings every month. They are wanting to have a training seminar where they are being instructed by a St. Luke's medical director.

- **Goal 1B: Develop Affiliation with Other Training Programs** - *Randy Morris – not present*

The Ambulance District has not been able to connect with St. Luke's on attending clinical rotations and are interested in attending. They believe it would be beneficial to be aware of St. Luke's medical protocols and procedures.

- **Goal 1C: Develop Regional Field Training Program** - *WRFR Operations Chief Bass Sears, Hailey Fire Chief Mike Baledge, Dr. Terry O'Connor – not present, Hailey Fire Chief Mike Baledge, Katelyn Berman & Mandy Kimball – not present*

They want to develop a training program with Dr. O'Connor for the entire EMS Community to attend. They would like to be informed on how to write and document records so they can be synchronized with St. Luke's.

- **Goal 1D: Develop Regional Paramedic and EMT Recruitment and Training Program** - *Ketchum Fire Department Lieutenant/Medic Lara McLean – not present*
- **Goal 1E: Improve EMS Data Collection** - *Dr. Terry O'Connor- not present*

All districts are using the same documentation and records management system but they are currently being used independently. The Ambulance District is looking to possibly upgrade the records management system so they can sync with another jurisdiction when necessary. They would like the ability to transfer data with St. Luke's. They are currently doing verbal hand offs of patients at the E.R.

**Initiative 2: Financial Accountability** – *Wood River Fire and Rescue Chief Ron Bateman*

- **Goal 2A: Evaluate EMS Revenue and Expenses** - *Agency Chiefs/Directors*

McLaughlin suggested that the Blaine County Clerks Department provide a revenue report showing how much each call costs and how much each medical entity pays per call.

- **Goal 2B: Evaluate Contractual Model for BCAD** – *County Manager Mandy Pomeroy, Wood River Fire and Rescue Chief Ron Bateman, Sun Valley Fire Chief Taan Robrahn, Keith Severson – not present*

Pomeroy will contact contract holders and discuss if there are any updates or changes that need to be made to the contracts. Blaine Patterson suggested sharing The Idaho EMS License between all the EMS agencies in Blaine County. They would be operating under one license but still be separate entities. North Blaine County Fire District Chief and Sun Valley Fire Department Assistant Chief Rich Bauer made The Ambulance District aware that there is a contract between NBCFD and Ketchum Fire Department. That KFD is to pay a monthly fee for storing one of their units at the Greenhorn station and KPFD has not been following the contract. Sun Valley City Administrator Walt Femling suggested that Blaine County drop the EMS jurisdiction borders. That would allow for all EMS personnel to serve in any jurisdiction like local law enforcement is currently doing.

- **Goal 2C: Evaluate BCAD Fund Sustainability** – *Blaine County, Dr. Terry O'Connor & Chris Corwin – not present*

**Initiative 3: Improve EMS Level Staffing** – *Ketchum Fire Chief Bill McLaughlin*

- **Goal 3A: Determine Staffing Needs** - *WRFR Operations Chief Bass Sears, Tom White, Wood River Fire and Rescue Chief Ron Bateman, Ketchum Fire Chief Bill McLaughlin*

The population growth has made it difficult to estimate what each department will need during peak and slack season. EMS administration has found it difficult with the call volume increase to perform admin duties. EMS administration is deliberating if they should hire someone to perform admin duties.

- **Goal 3B: Support First Responders Health** - *Blaine County Patrol Captain Brian Carpita, Seth Martin, WRFR Firefighter/EMT and Local 4923 Wood River Fire Fighters President Mike Huntsman & John Rathfon – not present*

911 at Ease is a mental health program giving first responders easier access to mental health assistance. McCleary suggested possibly allocating or increasing funding for this cause for the year 2023.

- **Goal 3C: Staffing Community Health and Education** – *Seth Martin – not present*
- Creating outreach programs for the public to get education and stay informed. They suggested providing educational classes for the public such as CPR and safety plans for tourist.
- **Goal 3D: Special Events and Major Incident Staffing** – *Ricky Williams, Sun Valley Fire Chief Taan Robrahn, WRFR Operations Chief Bass Sears, Randy Hall – not present*

All first responders, firefights and law enforcement are coordinating on how to handle an emergency call within a large group of people. COVID didn't allow for mass gatherings in the past, with gatherings now being allowed they are predicting that events will be significantly bigger.

**Initiative 4: Improve Interagency Cooperation:** - *Chief North Blaine County Fire District Chief and Sun Valley Fire Department Assistant Chief Rich Bauer, Ambulance Commissioners*

- **Goal 4A: Improve Interagency Communications:** - *Sun Valley Fire Chief Taan Robrahn,*

County Administrator Mandy Pomeroy, Seth Martin- not present

First responders want to meet without command staff annually to address any internal issues. They decided that this meeting should be facilitated by someone who can lead the meeting constructively.

**Initiative 5: Improve/Maintain EMS Response Performance:** - WRFR Operations Chief Bass Sears

- **Goal 5A: Develop Response Goals and Performance Benchmarks** – Wood River Fire and Rescue Chief Ron Bateman, Ketchum Fire Chief Bill McLaughlin, Carey Rural Fire Chief Richard Kimball

This goal ties back to getting accurate data by upgrading the documentation and communication system. They want a system that will be able to integrate with Blaine County Dispatch and St. Luke’s Security Network Engineer Jonathan Eaton explained the cost for an upgraded system that would address all the needs stated above. He also explained some technological obstacles that will need to be addressed in order to upgrade the system.

**Initiative 6: Capital Facilities/ Equipment to Support EMS:** - Carey Rural Fire Chief Richard Kimball, Sun Valley Fire Chief Taan Robrahn

- **Goal 6A: Improve Communication for EMS Response** – Chiefs Group

Wood River Fire is going to submit a request for ARPA Funds to install a new service tower for better communication coverage.

- **Goal 6B: Capital Allocation Analysis** – Wood River Fire and Rescue Chief Ron Bateman, Miles Canfield, Sun Valley Fire Chief Taan Robrahn, North Blaine County Fire District Chief and Sun Valley Fire Department Assistant Chief Rich Bauer

Carey Rural Fire Department requested for one of Ketchum’s Fire Department units. KFD stated that with increased call volume they aren’t comfortable transferring the unit right now and are thinking of applying for a grant to purchase additional unit. The Greenhorn units will remain in at Greenhorn station, Charlie 691 will be transferred to CRFD. Units 21, 22, 23 will remain in Ketchum Fire Department station. Carey will gift their decommissioned 2003 unit to Lincoln County.

**ADJOURN**

**At the hour of 5:00 p.m., with no more business before them, The Ambulance District adjourned.**

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved \_\_\_\_\_  
 Stephen McDougall Graham Dick Fosbury  
 County Clerk Chairman