

**CENTRAL LANE AMBULANCE TRANSPORT SYSTEM
JOINT ELECTED OFFICIALS TASK FORCE**

Meeting Summary

April 6, 2009

Elected Officials Present:

Lane County Commissioner Rob Handy

Springfield Assistant City Manager Jeff Towery

Eugene City Councilors Mike Clark and Andrea Ortiz

Springfield City Councilors Dave Ralston and John Woodrow

Lane Rural Fire/Rescue Board President Larry von Moos and Director Kevin King

Eugene Staff Present:

Randy Groves, Karen Brack, Denise Giard, Joe Zaludek, Julie Lindsey, Joann Eppli

Springfield Staff Present:

Dennis Murphy, Mark Walker, Brian Evanoff, Bart Noll, Jana Sorenson

Lane Rural Staff Present:

Dale Borland, Bill Bass, Chris Heppel

1. Welcome

- Randy Groves convened the first meeting of the Ambulance Transport System (ATS) Joint Elected Officials (JEO) Task Force. Everyone present introduced themselves.
- Randy Groves explained that the issues with the Central Lane ambulance transport system started quite awhile ago. The following two factors have had some of the biggest impact on the ambulance transport system: 1) decreases in Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements; and the recent economic downturn. He said that one of the outcomes of the January 27th ATS JEO Summit, was to form the ATS JEO Task Force who will develop and present a set of recommendations to the full JEO group. He does not envision the task force being a long-term commitment. Randy Groves added that the information presented in January holds true, however, the situation has grown progressively worse. He stated that the departments have been keeping the system afloat with incremental adjustments since 1998, and it will take policy direction changes to stabilize the system. The overall goal is to make sure service is provided to the communities we serve.

2. Future ATS JEO Task Force Meetings

- Randy Groves asked task force members to provide their availability for future meetings. He said the issues with the ambulance transport system are a regional problem, and he said the three chiefs believe regional solutions are the best way to go. Even though each agency may need to implement different solution sets, it will be important to at least know what the other regional partners are doing.
- Councilor Andrea Ortiz is available on Mondays and Wednesdays.

CENTRAL LANE AMBULANCE TRANSPORT SYSTEM JOINT ELECTED OFFICIALS TASK FORCE

Meeting Summary

April 6, 2009

- Councilor Mike Clark is available on Monday afternoons.
- Councilor Dave Ralston is available during the lunch hour on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month.
- Councilor John Woodrow is available on Tuesdays.
- Commissioner Rob Handy is available on Mondays and Thursdays.
- District Board Director Kevin King is available any day of the week except Thursdays before noon.
- There was group consensus that meeting on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. will work best, with the next meeting as soon as next Monday.

3. Recap from ATS Summit

- Randy Groves reviewed the meeting handouts. He said the sheet showing Policy Questions, Current Issues and Trends is a summary of some of the bullet points from the January 27th ATS JEO Summit. The memorandum from Denise Giard shows the effects of implementing a rate increase in Eugene in light of the proposed Springfield ambulance transport rate increase.
- Commissioner Rob Handy stated that he was impressed with the relationships between fire and union management that was displayed at the ATS JEO Summit. He asked if the union representatives had been invited to today's meeting. Randy Groves explained that the unions were not invited today, because the three Fire Chiefs wanted to poll the elected officials' opinions before inviting union representatives to the table. Randy Groves added that he believes the unions' involvement is important, and will provide beneficial input into the process.
- Councilor John Woodrow asked if there was a cap on what insurance is paying Springfield in usual and customary rates on an ambulance bill. Brian Evanoff replied that Springfield is not currently getting usual and customary rates, but that moving to a usual and customary rate system is possible. Dennis Murphy added that FireMed is a low-cost alternative, and said he believes a usual and customary rate system will be an issue in the future as ambulance rates continue to climb.
- Councilor Mike Clark asked if it is safe to assume that reimbursement rates will fall as time goes on. Randy Groves replied that the whole market is in turmoil. He added that only a percentage of the population is paying to support system. The system used to be supported by 21% of the transports. With the downturn in the economy, the system is now down to about 17% for the first quarter of calendar year 2009.
- Dennis Murphy stated that he believes it is important to invest in research and development for healthcare alternatives. He said Springfield is working on healthcare health reform package proposal.
- In reference to the ambulance rate increase, Councilor Dave Ralston said that Springfield is moving ahead, and asked if Eugene is considering a rate increase. Randy Groves stated that a rate increase is a partial short-term solution at best, and referred to the memorandum from Denise Giard. He added that Eugene had not decided yet on a rate increase but said it was being considered.

**CENTRAL LANE AMBULANCE TRANSPORT SYSTEM
JOINT ELECTED OFFICIALS TASK FORCE**

Meeting Summary

April 6, 2009

4. Agency Updates Since the January 27, 2009 ATS JEO Summit

- Randy Groves reported that historically, ambulance transports fees funded the entire system, which is no longer the case. He explained the system continues to lose money due to reduced Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements, in addition to the large number of indigent, uninsured and underinsured populations that still need the help, and cannot get preventative treatment. This has created a system that defaults to using emergency response provider resources. He said that Eugene reported that 21 percent of the transports had traditionally paid for the system, but that number was down to about 18% at the time of the January 27th ATS JEO Summit. Since that time the percentage has decreased to 17 percent, and is an important indicator of hard times. He noted that the situation is getting worse.
- Julie Lindsey distributed and walked the task team members through a spreadsheet on the Ambulance Transport Fund (ATF) Financial Forecast – Executive Summary. She explained that this document shows a six- year forecast for the ATF, which gets posted in the City of Eugene’s budget. The spreadsheet is for current FY09. Julie said that while call volume has increased, transports have decreased, which has resulted in Eugene having to use up the available balance by year end FY09. She said the department is required to maintain approximately two months of operating money (approximately \$1.1 million) available, but due to changes in the economy, and notification issues with how much a transport costs, transport rates have dropped dramatically. Julie reported that Eugene Fire & EMS will start FY10 with a \$400,000 deficit balance available. She noted that this spreadsheet is a more current version than the one the Eugene Budget Committee will see, and is used at the department level to see the actual numbers in the budget. Randy Groves said he will share updated information on the ATF with the ATS JEO Task Team as it becomes available.
- Randy Groves reported that Eugene is approaching the three-week mark of contracting non-emergency transport services. He said Eugene hired a private provider, Rural Metro, in an effort to build a tiered transport system that matches demand with level of service. It also serves as part of a cost containment/cost avoidance model. He reported that roughly 85 percent of the areas skilled nursing facilities are located within Eugene’s Ambulance Service Area (ASA), creating a capacity issue by tying-up emergency response resources when providing non-emergency transports. He added that calls for service are continuing to increase, and with Eugene’s ambulance service area serving a population over 180,000 with three statically-deployed units and two peak-period units, the non-emergency transport provider is helping with the capacity issue. He added that non-emergency transports produce lower revenue than emergency transports.
- Dennis Murphy distributed copies of the Agenda Item Summary and attachments for tonight’s Springfield City Council Meeting agenda item on an Ambulance Rate Increase. He noted that an increase in ambulance rates is not a permanent or sustainable solution because of decreased Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements. However, he believes it is a good policy decision. Dennis advocated for healthcare reform for long-term sustainability. He said that it is not a good time to depend on General Fund dollars. He emphasized that the rate increase is a temporary solution, and stated that even with the

CENTRAL LANE AMBULANCE TRANSPORT SYSTEM JOINT ELECTED OFFICIALS TASK FORCE

Meeting Summary

April 6, 2009

rate increase, Springfield will be back to losing in FY11 and FY12. Dennis also noted that solutions may be different for each department. He re-stated that FireMed is a low-cost alternative, and reported that the current FireMed campaign is targeting younger audiences. He added that Springfield staff work to keep the cost of FireMed Program Membership affordable to all people. FireMed helps to offset larger General Fund contributions. Dennis then reported that since the January 27th ATS JEO Summit, Springfield has been working towards a very large ambulance transport rate increase to help address the financial issue. He stated that Springfield's capacity is currently okay. The department has three units that provide a fast response 24/7. He said Springfield Fire & Life Safety is working to find creative ways to maintain service to the community. He believes long-term solutions will be a combination of General Fund money, user fees and FireMed support. He emphasized that the system is at the point of needing policymaker decisions. He advocated again for supporting research and development, and for a healthcare system reform. Dennis then reported that Springfield Fire & Life Safety will submit a stimulus recovery grant application to fund reconstructing the healthcare delivery system to make it more effective. He also reported that meetings are scheduled with Pacific Sources, Cascade Health Solutions and IAFF Local 1395 to discuss a demonstration project and show agency sponsorship for reconstituting how healthcare services are delivered. Dennis noted that Eugene Fire & EMS is an accredited agency. Dennis introduced Bart Noll, who is the FireMed Program Manager.

- Councilor Mike Clark asked if any consideration has been given to partnering with the University of Oregon on the FireMed Program. Dennis Murphy replied that the University of Oregon does not participate today, but mentioned that FireMed has partnered with some employers through the JobCare Program to offer reduced FireMed Membership rates to employees. Councilor Mike Clark said that Lane Transit District (LTD) has the model, where University of Oregon students, faculty and staff can use their identification cards to receive free transportation services. Councilor Mike Clark said he made a similar suggestion for the FireMed Program years ago. Randy Groves mentioned that the concept has been discussed, but has not yet been implemented. Bart Noll acknowledged that the university students live in Eugene, and would be a good group to pursue. He further stated that JobCare is a very attractive way to go because it targets people who are employed and have insurance. Bart said that this year's campaign just started, and telephone traffic is being gauged. He mentioned that Springfield is getting questions on Eugene's non-emergency transport service. He said FireMed staff are taking money and input. There are a lot of Medicare aged individuals that willingly share their FireMed stories. Bart also noted that Internet usage is rapidly changing to a social interaction place, and Springfield is working to incorporate social networking as part of the FireMed marketing campaign efforts to capitalize on this concept. Dennis Murphy added that, "we are facing an uphill battle." Councilor Mike Clark asked which marketing agency Springfield uses for the FireMed campaign, to which Dennis Murphy replied Shelton Turnbull.
- Commissioner Rob Handy mentioned the Springfield Council meeting tonight on raising Springfield ambulance transport rates, and asked why FireMed Membership is not

CENTRAL LANE AMBULANCE TRANSPORT SYSTEM JOINT ELECTED OFFICIALS TASK FORCE

Meeting Summary

April 6, 2009

increasing. Commissioner Rob Handy also asked when and how much FireMed Membership rates have increased. Dennis Murphy replied that the program started in 1986 at \$36 per year, and remained that the same rate for nine years. He said increases from two to four dollars per year have been implemented since then, and now the cost of membership is \$52 per year. He said the first two increases were to \$40, and then \$49 per year. Dennis added that he has viewed FireMed as keys to the system, including helping people recognize a true emergency. Commissioner Rob Handy asked why there have not been regular incremental increases on FireMed. Dennis Murphy replied that there is a price sensitivity point where if the increase is too much, the number of members drops off. He added further that the primary membership of FireMed is comprised of seniors, who provide input on the program. In fact, in consideration of seniors, when air medical services were added, they were offered as a tiered package rather than one complete package. Dennis explained that FireMed is market and survey driven, and he will conduct a member survey to present information on a rate increase. Randy Groves added that it remains to be seen what impact the economy will have on FireMed. He said that some people are struggling to make ends meet and that we are already experiencing people making life and death decisions through their wallets on emergency calls. He added that as we work through the system's challenges, it will be important to take social equity into consideration. We need to maintain a system that is accessible to those who truly need it, making it important to keep the system alive and find solutions.

- Councilor John Woodrow inquired how it works when someone calls 9-1-1. He asked if emergency personnel respond, then leave the patient. Randy Groves replied that Eugene or partner units respond to calls for service, and Rural Metro is now providing non-emergency transports for pre-scheduled doctor appointments. He said emergency response personnel still transport a patient if a call for service results in the patient having to go to the emergency room. Eventually, Rural Metro will also deliver non-emergent patients to the emergency room, but we are not there yet. As we expand the public-private partnership, it will be important that we do it responsibly in regard to patient care, and ensure we are not making our financial situation worse as we try to solve the problem.
- Councilor Dave Ralston asked why Springfield Fire & Life Safety wants to implement a solution that will provide help for only one year, when Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements do not make any difference. Dennis Murphy replied that by law, decreased payments from Medicare and Medicaid must be accepted, and the patient cannot be billed for the remaining balance. Councilor Dave Ralston said he wants to see long-term solutions. He also stated that Springfield will be looking at FireMed increases. He anticipates that the issues will continue to escalate, and wants to see what the solutions are going to be and who is going to pay for it. Dennis Murphy said it is necessary to reconfigure how service is delivered and balance with how much it costs, so that the system is more efficient and effective. Councilor Dave Ralston said that healthcare reform sounds good, in addition to federal government tax dollars, but was

CENTRAL LANE AMBULANCE TRANSPORT SYSTEM JOINT ELECTED OFFICIALS TASK FORCE

Meeting Summary

April 6, 2009

concerned about the reality of when and how it would occur. He wants to see what it is going to look like. Dennis Murphy stated that federal tax money is a false solution.

- Councilor Mike Clark asked how we can address service delivery model changes, and how will these changes be part of the eventual solution. He said he is intrigued with the concept of responders assessing and triaging calls for service; it sounds like more of a hands-off approach and a less expensive model. Randy Groves replied that firefighter/paramedics are already performing field triage, but at this point they have limited options. Eugene is interested in a model where emergency response personnel eventually only perform emergency scene work, and that all non-emergency and inter-facility transports are directed to a different level of service. He said that currently, we are using high cost resources that are not needed on the vast majority of calls. Councilor Mike Clark said he has heard the unions are supportive of this concept, and asked what problems implementing this change would bring up. Randy Groves explained that the ambulance transport system is primarily a fee for service system. He said the three jurisdictions have been discussing what makes the most sense (e.g., ASA re-configurations, which would involve the Board of County Commissioners). He also added that he was confident of the Eugene firefighter's union support, but was less sure of where the Springfield firefighter's union would ultimately land on this issue.
- Regarding Springfield's ambulance rate increase, Commissioner Rob Handy asked why Springfield's rates will be the highest in the state if the increase goes through. He further asked if there was something in particular that is leading us to be the highest. Dennis Murphy reported that last time Springfield raised their ambulance rates, every other provider in the area followed. He said there is a ripple effect, based on past history. Commissioner Rob Handy asked if there are similar issues with the ambulance transport systems all around the state, or is there a particular issue that is driving this conversation. Randy Groves replied that we are a fire-based service, with higher personnel costs but have a more seasoned and stable workforce. He added that this is one of the best places to have an event due to the area's highly trained emergency response personnel, and local hospitals and staff. He also added that all EMS and ambulance transport systems are experiencing these problems to one point or another not only in the State, but in the entire country.
- Councilor Andrea Ortiz expressed her appreciation for everyone who took the time to be at today's meeting. She said she believes there needs to be a balance, and she would like to teach people not to call 9-1-1 unnecessarily. She said she is dedicated to our community, and dedicated to having the best service possible. Councilor Andrea Ortiz said she is interested in a "lesser-type" of provider in the community, and would like to hear what others think.
- Dale Borland reported that the Lane Rural Fire/Rescue District is currently entertaining a rate and mileage increase, however, he expressed doubt that his board of directors will be comfortable with a rate increase to the full \$1,600 per transport. He said that this year alone, Lane Rural received an additional \$50,000 to \$75,000 support from the General Fund thus far, which is higher than what was originally anticipated. He said Lane Rural will continue to up-staff their day car. He explained that opening Sacred Heart Medical

CENTRAL LANE AMBULANCE TRANSPORT SYSTEM JOINT ELECTED OFFICIALS TASK FORCE

Meeting Summary

April 6, 2009

Center at RiverBend in Springfield has added more time to each call and significantly increased costs due to the added mileage. He said he anticipates next year will be even worse. Dale added that the new budget includes 15 percent in uncollected taxes which is much higher than normal. He asked at what point do we “cry uncle”. For now, the lights will be on and the heat will be going, but there is no money for extra purchases, as expenditures continue to climb and revenue continues to drop. Dennis Murphy added that there is a lot of support for FireMed in Lane Rural.

- Councilor John Woodrow asked if Lane Rural’s rates are currently the same as Springfield’s, to which Dale Borland replied yes.
- Commissioner Rob Handy asked for clarification on what Dale meant by not being able to justify an increase to the full \$1,600. Dale Borland replied that the Lane Rural Board does not feel comfortable with raising ambulance transport rates up to \$1,600. He said it is important to find a balance when thinking about increasing rates for people who need help in what could be the worst moments of their lives. He added that if we keep jacking up rates, less people who need the system will use the system. Dale said we are here to serve and provide service, not to make money and get rich. He said we have to set limits. The Lane Rural Board will consider a larger mileage increase, rather than a huge rate increase. He said Lane Rural’s response area runs into other jurisdictions that Lane Rural taxpayers are supporting. He added that a rate increase is a temporary fix. Commissioner Rob Handy asked what was meant by “crying uncle”, to which Dale Borland replied he meant that at a certain point we have to set a limit; any more than that and we are going to have to turn off the lights and heat. Also, he said Lane Rural cannot throw all of the money to transports. Randy Groves said it can no longer be a system only supported by fees for service. He said we either need a third revenue source, in addition to fees for service and FireMed, or we need to look at a different way of providing the service such as privatization. He added that he does not think it is in our collective communities’ interest to privatize emergency scene work.
- Councilor John Woodrow asked if somebody breaks their arm, calls 9-1-1, and the paramedics dress the broken arm, is the patient billed for dressing the broken arm. Randy Groves replied that fees for service (such as dressing a broken arm) are significantly less if the patient does not need to be transported. He said it’s categorized as an “aid call.” He added that it is common for responding crews not to transport a patient if they don’t need to go to the hospital by ambulance. Councilor John Woodrow asked if the patient can choose, to which Randy Groves replied yes. Randy Groves said we are working to build a system that uses the appropriate resource for type of call, and that a multi-tiered system would be best, and that is what we now have in Eugene. He noted the importance of moving to a model that matches resources with call type as a means of cost containment, because higher cost resources, which provide the highest level of skill and service, are not always needed.
- Councilor John Woodrow asked when the paramedics respond, and the bill is for \$500, does a FireMed member have to pay the \$500. Dennis Murphy replied no. He further explained that Medicare refuses to pay a dime, and does not cover aid calls. Randy Groves added that a FireMed membership provides coverage of medically necessary

CENTRAL LANE AMBULANCE TRANSPORT SYSTEM JOINT ELECTED OFFICIALS TASK FORCE

Meeting Summary

April 6, 2009

calls, meaning that a FireMed member cannot just use the service for anything. Dennis Murphy said the goal is to preserve the high quality of service, redistribute calls, and get at the core issue. Dennis then announced that there will be a healthcare insurer partner presentation tomorrow. As grants opportunities open and close, Springfield wants to be prepared and be able to provide the information. Councilor Dave Ralston clarified that Dennis was referring to mobile health services (e.g., MedExpress, who provides routine treat and release services that cost a lot less).

- Commissioner Rob Handy said he is really encouraged with what the different jurisdictions are working on. He requested that each agency prepare and distribute an information package. Regarding the healthcare reform, he is interested on how to incorporate this into the system. He suggested making a comprehensive presentation to the Board of County Commissioners, and when presentation is prepared, he will work to get the presentation on the Board of County Commissioners' agenda. He added that one of the roles as a County Commissioner is to ask if a reform change is needed in our service district boundaries, and what are the savings. Randy Groves explained the concept of urban/rural split system within Eugene's ASA and five contract districts. He said that the interest is in a well-planned transition so that no one is left without service, and that we do not drive any one service into the ground financially. He stated it is critical that there is consensus on the issue, and recommended we proceed with caution when make adjustments to the system.

5. Eugene/Springfield ESCi Cooperative Services Study

- Randy Groves reported that the Eugene/Springfield ESCi Cooperative Services Study has a nexus back to the work of the ATS JEO Task Force. Recommendations that will result from the ESCi study may be part of the solution. He added that Eugene and Springfield will further expand collaborative efforts, and that there may be some level of merger between the two departments. The end result will be more efficiency and with less overhead and a number of areas that may produce service effectiveness. With the implementation of the 3-Battalion system, which is the current model used in Eugene and Springfield, the two agencies work seamlessly as one with the closest and most appropriate resource being dispatched to all calls for service regardless of jurisdiction. Randy Groves said ESCi will provide a final report that will include presentations to elected officials and department staffs. He noted that the work of the ATS JEO Task Force will be separate, but with some overlap.

6. Tasks

- Randy Groves said that the task of the ATS JEO Task Team is to formulate proposals to set the ambulance transport system up for the future, and there needs to be what he described as, a "stew of solutions." He called attention to the fact that departments throughout the country are experiencing the same issues we are, and emphasized that we are not in isolation. Randy Groves asked the elected officials what they believe their colleagues need in the way of education from the departments and district. The goal is

CENTRAL LANE AMBULANCE TRANSPORT SYSTEM JOINT ELECTED OFFICIALS TASK FORCE

Meeting Summary

April 6, 2009

for the ATS JEO Task Team meetings to be as productive as possible, and to provide policymakers with information to make good policy decisions.

- Councilor John Woodrow suggested sharing information from these meetings with both cities Mayor and Council, including the meeting notes.
- Councilor Dave Ralston asked if there needs to be proper minutes taken by using a City Minutes Recorder. Councilor Andrea Ortiz replied that for Eugene, the ATS JEO Task Force is a sub-committee, and therefore, official meeting minutes do not need to be recorded. Randy Groves explained that Jo Eppli, his Executive Assistant will attend all meetings and provide comprehensive meeting summaries. He added that the work of this group will be to develop and present recommendations.
- Councilor Andrea Ortiz said that she believes her peers have varying levels of knowledge of the ambulance transport system. She would like to see them provided with information to really understand the issues, and be able to make changes in our culture and have an impact on our community. Councilor Andrea Ortiz also encouraged the departments to invite elected officials on ride-alongs. Randy Groves asked for advice on the best way to send elected officials invitations, to which both Councilors Ortiz and Clark said one-on-one invitations are usually most effective.
- Councilor Mike Clark mentioned that one of the Fire Station crews invited him to the station for breakfast, which he enjoyed, and it was a good way to talk with staff who work within the system. He said formulating more principle-based policy questions for council will be helpful.
- Commissioner Rob Handy said the Board of County Commissioners would want to address aspects of healthcare reform in a comprehensive way. He is interested in making sure the burden is not placed on the backs of working people or making system adjustments at their expense. He said a money measure could be a possible solution, but it will be important to balance all the different needs. He added there is metro-wide potential for doing different things. He would like more information on special districts and the boundary piece. He wants to see what makes sense, and what solutions there are consensus on.
- District Board Director Kevin King said he agrees with Commissioner Rob Handy. He added that it will be important to show the difference between a special district and cities when the County talks about boundary changes. It will be imperative to show the different funding models, different funding dependencies, and how decisions are made.
- Councilor Mike Clark asked if it is decided to change the ASA boundaries, wouldn't the boundaries of district have to change also. Dale Borland replied no. Randy Groves added that in a hybrid system there is an opportunity to sub-contract emergency services to a portion of ASA. Councilor Mike Clark asked what percentage of FireMed members live outside of the Eugene/Springfield area, to which Dennis Murphy replied between 25 and 35 percent. Mileage is used as an equalizer. Dennis Murphy added that Springfield council encourages a surcharge for out-of-county ASA. Councilor Mike Clark asked if Eugene and Springfield have the same base rate, to which Randy Groves replied yes.
- Randy Groves then asked for elected officials' suggestions on the appropriate level of community input. Councilor Mike Clark said there should be at least one public hearing

**CENTRAL LANE AMBULANCE TRANSPORT SYSTEM
JOINT ELECTED OFFICIALS TASK FORCE**

Meeting Summary

April 6, 2009

before going to council. Councilor Andrea Ortiz asked for Eugene to host a public open house before any decisions are made. She believes there needs to be more than a public hearing, and would like to receive public input as we go along. She would also like to include the hospitals. Councilor Andrea Ortiz suggested holding the open house at a Fire Station to educate the public. District Board Director Kevin King said the Lane Rural Board will have open discussions with the public to share information as it becomes available. He and District President Larry von Moos are committed to being involved in the work of the ATS JEO Task Force. He added that they encourage in public participation at their board meetings. District Board President Larry von Moos said the Lane Rural Board will utilize their Internet website to post meeting minutes and information and get people interested. Councilor John Woodrow said he likes the idea of an open house, and agrees with Councilors Clark and Ortiz. Dennis Murphy said he will post a link to information on the FireMed website. District Board President Larry von Moos FireMed stated that Lane Rural Fire/Rescue personnel actively recruit FireMed members, which is why there is such a high percentage of FireMed members in their district. Randy Groves suggested hosting a series of open houses with at least one occurring in each jurisdiction.

- Randy Groves asked for elected officials' preferred level of labor participation. Councilor John Woodrow said he agrees with Commissioner Rob Handy's earlier comments, stating that labor should be part of the discussion. Councilor Mike Clark said there is a noticeable change in the labor/management relationship in Eugene, and he is in favor of having labor sit at the table. District Board President Larry von Moos and Director Kevin King agreed. Councilor Andrea Ortiz expressed concern if labor would provide sufficient representation for both dual role and single role medics. She said she would like to make sure both levels of medics are taken into consideration, and asked about the difference in work hours. Randy Groves explained that unit hour utilization is much higher for single-role medics by design. He added that this is consistent in the industry. He also added that the Eugene Firefighter's Union represents the single-role medics and that he as Fire Chief also represents the functionality of their role. Councilor Andrea Ortiz confirmed that all three Chiefs were in agreement that labor should be at the table. There was group consensus that unions sit at the table because they represent an important part of the system.
- Randy Groves then asked for elected officials' suggestions on the appropriate level of stakeholder input (e.g., hospitals). He referenced the hospital staff and state health division representatives that spoke at the January 27th ATS JEO Summit, and said they are very interested at what we are doing. He asked who the elected officials thought the key stakeholders are, and what the appropriate level of involvement is? Councilor Andrea Ortiz said she believes the hospitals provide a good service, and she views them as key stakeholders. However, she does not think it is necessary to invite them to the ATS JEO Task Force table. Councilor Dave Ralston agreed with Councilor Ortiz. Councilor Mike Clark said he thinks hospitals should have the ability to be in the room, but not at the table. He would like to keep the door open. Councilor John Woodrow said the hospitals should be provided with information. Randy Groves added that at some

CENTRAL LANE AMBULANCE TRANSPORT SYSTEM JOINT ELECTED OFFICIALS TASK FORCE

Meeting Summary

April 6, 2009

point, we may need to invite specialty experts that augment and support the system (e.g., Rural Metro, financial expertise beyond the City, the Oregon Health Division). Dale Borland agreed. There was group consensus to provide hospitals with information.

- Randy Groves said the ATS JEO Task Force needs to decide on how recommendations will be presented to the full JEO group. Councilor Dave Ralston suggested bringing the full JEO group back together when the Task Force has something to present. Randy Groves said while individual departments will be taking action (e.g., an out of area surcharge), it will be helpful to be looking at the regional system. Randy Groves asked if anyone had additional tasks that were not listed, and no one replied with any additional items.

7. Next Steps

- Randy Groves asked everyone to keep in mind that the departments need implementation time, but plan to keep process moving forward. He said that the chiefs recognized their roles in the process as policy implementers with the elected officials providing the policy direction.
- Councilor John Woodrow inquired on the timeline of the ESCi study, to which Randy Groves replied completion is estimated by early June. Dennis Murphy added that ESCi recently merged with another national fire service consulting firm.
- Councilor Dave Ralston said he anticipates the ATS JEO Task for work to be completed in less than two months.
- There was group consensus to meet, every other week, starting with next Monday.

8. Questions and Answers/ Feedback

- Randy Groves asked if there were any questions or suggestions for next steps. He then asked for feedback on today's meeting, and suggestions for future meetings.
- Councilor John Woodrow said that he would like coffee. He then thanked staff for their work, and for providing guidance for elected officials to make good decisions in this process.
- There was group consensus that the Fire Conference Room at 2nd and Chambers was a good location for ATS JEO Task Force meetings.

9. Summary of Decisions Made

- There was group consensus that meeting on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. will work best, with the next meeting on April 13, 2009. ATS JEO Task Force meetings will continue to be held in the Fire Conference Room at 2nd and Chambers.
- It was decided that information from ATS JEO Task Force meetings will be shared with both cities' Mayor and Council and the full Lane Rural Fire/Rescue Board of Directors.
- It was decided that official meeting minutes do not need to be recorded because the ATS JEO Task Force is a sub-committee who will develop recommendations. Instead, Jo Eppli, Randy Groves' assistant will attend all meetings and provide comprehensive meeting summaries.

**CENTRAL LANE AMBULANCE TRANSPORT SYSTEM
JOINT ELECTED OFFICIALS TASK FORCE**

Meeting Summary

April 6, 2009

- It was decided that the Lane Rural Board will utilize their Internet website to post meeting notes and information to get people interested, and that Springfield will post a link to ATS JEO Task Force information on the FireMed website.
- It was decided that there will be a series of open houses in each jurisdiction once the group has progressed a little further in the process.
- There was group consensus that unions sit at the ATS JEO Task Force table.
- There was group consensus to provide hospitals with information from the ATS JEO Task Force meetings, but that the hospitals would not sit at the table at this point.
- It was decided that recommendations will be presented to the full JEO group when the ATS JEO Task Force is ready to present its recommendations.
- It was decided that water and coffee will be made available at future ATS JEO Task Force meetings.