

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

Meeting Summary

April 27, 2009

Elected Officials Present:

Lane County Commissioner Rob Handy

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

Eugene Staff Present:

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

IAFF Local 851 Representatives Present:

Scott Olmos

Springfield Staff Present:

Brian Evanoff, Bart Noll, Jana Sorenson

Lane Rural Staff Present:

Dale Borland, Bill Bass, Chris Heppel

1. Welcome

- Randy Groves convened the second meeting of the Ambulance Transport System (ATS) Joint Elected Officials (JEO) Task Force. He then introduced two new members: Scott Olmos, President of IAFF Local 851 representing Eugene and Lane Rural; and Kevin Gray, President of IAFF Local 1395 representing Springfield. He explained that Kevin Gray was not available to attend today's meeting.

2. Future ATS JEO Task Force Meetings

- Randy Groves noted that after today, there is only one more Task Force meeting scheduled for Monday, May 11th. Everyone present agreed that there will need to be additional meetings. He confirmed that the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month is still a good option for Task Force members.
- Councilor Dave Ralston pointed out that Monday, May 25th is Memorial Day holiday. Randy Groves said he is concerned with pushing the next meeting out by four weeks, and asked everyone to bring alternate dates they are available for two hours to the next Task Force meeting.

3. ATS JEO Task Force Issue and Objective Statement

- Randy Groves called attention to the Issue and Objective Statement handout. He said this is a draft formal statement of purpose to help keep the ATS JEO Task Force on track. He asked Task Force members to review the document and send him any edits, which he will incorporate and bring to the next meeting.

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

Meeting Summary

April 27, 2009

4. Eugene Budget Committee

- Randy Groves announced that the Eugene Fire & EMS Department will make a short presentation to the Eugene Budget Committee this Wednesday, which will be televised. He said the presentation will be similar to Eugene's portion of the ATS Summit presentation. He will reference the ATS JEO Task Force's work, and will emphasize that the three Fire Chiefs believe that solutions need to be regional.

5. Private Non-Emergency Transport Companies

- Randy Groves reported that Rural Metro Ambulance is now providing sub-contracted services for non-emergency transports in Eugene and that this service had just been expanded to include Intermediate Life Support (ILS) transports.
- Randy Groves then reported on an issue with another provider in the area who is operating in violation of Eugene's City Code. Denise Giard added that this provider has been operating for many years doing stretcher patient transports, not always within the City Ordinance. Additionally, since the RFP process for non-emergent work, this provider has expanded to transporting advance life support patients. Denise stated that this provider is not a licensed ambulance service, and they are not receiving calls for service through 9-1-1, but handing out business cards instead. She said this is impacting all market functions, because this provider does not have an ASA, and is taking revenue from other area providers, especially Rural Metro Ambulance. The City of Eugene has sent this provider a letter notifying them that they are in violation of City Code. A response has not yet been received. In addition, she said that Eugene is in the process of expanding Rural Metro Ambulance's sub-contracted services with an effective date of May 15th. Randy Groves added that the ASA holders are responsible for overseeing what occurs in their respective jurisdictions, and are obligated to ensure safe and appropriate treatment is provided to all members of our public. Councilor Andrea Ortiz asked if someone were to file a complaint against a provider, who would receive the complaint. Randy Groves replied that there are multiple avenues for complaints to be filed. Councilor Andrea Ortiz confirmed that Lane County assigns ASA boundaries, and asked if the violation took place outside of Eugene, would the City of Eugene be responsible for following-up on the complaint. Denise Giard replied that the complaint would need to be filed through Lane County. Councilor Andrea Ortiz confirmed that Rural Metro Ambulance's service will be expanded to include upper-level transports of stable patients. Randy Groves replied yes, at the ILS level, and said that this was part of the long-term vision for Rural Metro Ambulance and added that there is a higher volume of routine transports in Eugene. District President Larry von Moos asked how aggressively will Eugene go after providers who are violating current codes and laws. He also asked if Eugene is going to raise the level of care Rural Metro Ambulance can provide instead of sending a notice of violation. Randy Groves replied that Eugene has sent a cease and desist letter to the provider, and is in the process of expanding the level of care Rural Metro Ambulance can provide to include people in care facilities and patients being released from the hospital. Commissioner Rob Handy asked if this provider is open to lawsuits. Randy Groves replied that they are assuming a liability and so is any facility

CENTRAL LANE AMBULANCE TRANSPORT SYSTEM JOINT ELECTED OFFICIALS TASK FORCE

Meeting Summary

April 27, 2009

that uses them; there is a fine of up to \$5,000 per infraction through City of Eugene. Brian Evanoff said he was unsure of the monetary amount associated with Springfield's Ordinance. Randy Groves said Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) now include a provision that expands an ASA holder's authority to include non-emergency transports. However, Lane County's Code has never been updated to align with state statute. He said Eugene has received legal opinion from the Attorney's Office, and will still proceed with following-up on the violation. He asked Denise Giard to follow-up on getting information to Eugene's Councilors on the provider in the area who is operating in violation of City Code. Scott Olmos asked what authority does Eugene have to impose and who gives that authority. Randy Groves replied that at the City level, the municipal government sets the operating requirements and level of fines. He added that he believes Springfield's process is on a parallel track, but different. Councilor John Woodrow confirmed that Rural Metro Ambulance is not authorized to operate in Springfield. Randy Groves added that they are allowed to terminate in Springfield, and can do transports out of the area to Portland.

6. Potential Solutions for Consideration

- Randy Groves stated that the bullet points listed on today's meeting agenda under this section are potential solutions from the ATS Summit. He said staff would like to know which options elected officials are truly interested in looking at, which options they are not interested in looking at, and asked that elected officials bring other suggestions forward if they have them. He said that the goal is to focus staffs' energy and resources on those areas the elected officials were interested in.
- Councilor Andrea Ortiz stated that there was a full realm of alternative service delivery models short of full privatization that she would prefer be considered. Councilor Dave Ralston said he agreed with Councilor Ortiz.
- Councilor John Woodrow confirmed that full privatization means that fire departments would not do transports at all. Randy Groves stated that Eugene would have a gap in excess of \$2 million if it would completely take transports out of the mix, but would continue to provide EMS first response. He added that the Ambulance Transport Fund (ATF) covers a number of administrative and supervisory positions that would still be needed if we were to divest the ambulance transport system. These positions include the salary of two of the six line (District) Chiefs [each District Chief has a span of control of 25-30 people], the department's Supervising Physician and a lot of field equipment and resources. He said there is no way to completely take away transports without some costs, because we need to still provide EMS first response unless the community decides they want fire only response. He also added that all three fire service agencies rely on the medics assigned to the ambulance to help with basic fire suppression, rescue and hazardous materials response in addition to ambulance transport.
- Councilor John Woodrow asked if theoretically, it would be more extensive than to continue as the departments are operating now. Randy Groves replied that there are a lot of things in the future that we cannot control, such as not knowing what changes the

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

Meeting Summary

April 27, 2009

federal government will make to universal health care, or where Medicare and Medicaid will end up.

- Councilor Mike Clark said that he would prefer not spending a lot of time on full privatization. He also said that he would like to add the option that he mentioned at the last Task Force meeting of having responders assessing and triaging calls for service. Randy Groves stated that type of system would require maintaining EMS first response no matter what model we ultimately go to. However, on the emergency end, the workforce tends to be less stable in the private environment – with long-term employees being between the two and three year range. As a comparison, some of Eugene’s Paramedics have worked for the department in excess of 20 and even 30 years, and are competent, dedicated and highly-skilled. Randy Groves added that Eugene is hoping to move towards a model where emergency response personnel eventually perform emergency scene work only, and that all non-emergency and inter-facility transports are directed to different types of service. He stated that other area departments look to Eugene for trends because we tend to experience them first, as Eugene looks to Portland who is usually experiences trends slightly ahead of us. The model of only performing emergency scene work would help better match level of resource with level of call, so that there would not be as many expensive resources on the street as are needed with a “one size fits all system”. He added that there are always financial implications, and the system is already crashing.
- District President Larry von Moos asked if modifying the role of the 90 Series is completely off the table. Randy Groves replied that nothing is off the table, and hopes to get a sense of where the Task Force wants to go. He added that the 90 Series system and employees have proven their value although he acknowledged that the entire system will continue to evolve. He added that the 90 Series work unit (single role medics) turned into a workforce that is a good supplement to the system. He stated that Rural Metro Ambulance has taken into account demand and started with 36 hours of staffing on duty every day with one unit working 24 hours, and a second unit working 12 hours. These are ways of us continuing to work smarter by matching type of call with the appropriate resource, and the number of units with call load. Denise Giard said there are a number of avenues to look at, and confirmed that full privatization is something that the majority of elected officials do not seem interested in.
- Councilor Dave Ralston noted that Springfield already implemented a rate increase, which is a temporary fix. He said the option to consolidate/merge departmental/district functions is also a temporary fix. He is not interested in the fire district option, as we already have a system that funds fire departments. He added that the problem is the ambulance service needs to be funded. Councilor Ralston asked how compression affects a taxing district. He said congressional efforts to increase Medicare and Medicaid payments need to continue. He believes an ambulance taxing district is the most viable option, and added if we are not transporting, we are not making money. Councilor Ralston said he wants more information on the ambulance taxing district. Randy Groves said that the Lane Fire Defense Board is paying for a study through Lane Council of Governments to find out what it takes to form a district, and what revenue is needed to

CENTRAL LANE AMBULANCE TRANSPORT SYSTEM JOINT ELECTED OFFICIALS TASK FORCE

Meeting Summary

April 27, 2009

stabilize the system. He will share the information when it becomes available. He added that the down side to an ambulance taxing district is that the three departments see this as a longer-term solution since it will take time to process. These are tough economic times, and he believes it would take at least a couple of years to pass and implement this option. Councilor Dave Ralston noted that some of the other options are temporary buffers and will be implemented in meantime. Randy Groves agreed.

- Commissioner Rob Handy asked for an update on Springfield's rate increase and information on the ESCi and LCOG studies. Randy Groves replied that Springfield's ambulance transport rates were increased from \$1,150 base rate to \$1,600 and \$15.50 per mile to \$20. He said the ESCi study (a cooperative services study) is being handled through a company out of the Portland metro area who specializes in public safety mergers and consolidations. Results of the study will show additional areas where Eugene and Springfield can improve efficiencies and enhance service effectiveness, including what it would take to create a district, joint powers of authority, up to and including a complete merger. The idea is to expand further on the 3-Battalion system, which is already in place, and consists of two battalions in Eugene and one in Springfield with a coordinated response order. The 3-Battalion system has allowed each department to save money on greater alarm call backs and improve service effectiveness on a daily basis. The overall goal of the study is to eliminate redundancies, and should be complete sometime next month. Randy Groves stated that the LCOG study will strictly look at the mechanics of forming a district and what increments in taxes it would take to support the system. Commissioner Rob Handy asked if the lobbying efforts option includes the state task team that is looking at healthcare reform, to which Randy Groves replied that it should include all efforts. In reference to the full privatization option, Commissioner Rob Handy asked for information on a hybrid version. Randy Groves stated that labor and management have discussed this option conceptually, and have a shared vision on where to go and in fact, have made movements in that direction with bringing Life Flight to central Lane County and Rural Metro non-emergency transport services to ASA #4. He added that this option is partly predicated on a 9-1-1 answering point being able to maintain a high degree of reliability. Commissioner Handy said he would like to see information on reducing response times, as a means of cost containment, which his colleague, Commissioner Fleenor, proposed at the ATS Summit. He also asked staff to come back with more flushed-out specifics on a rate and mileage increase. Commissioner Handy then asked if there was any more information on Dennis Murphy's healthcare reform package proposal, to which Brian Evanoff replied that Dennis is working to develop his proposal, which will include using the correct resource for wheelchair services and contracting with different services to involving insurance companies. Brian explained that a test program would show savings for the insurance companies by correctly provided needed services. He said that Springfield is also working on a grant for funding support of this option. Randy Groves added that the healthcare reform package proposal is included under the new membership/initiatives option. He said this option also includes a treat and release component, and that Dennis is still working on the business plan. Denise Giard said she believes the impact will be

CENTRAL LANE AMBULANCE TRANSPORT SYSTEM JOINT ELECTED OFFICIALS TASK FORCE

Meeting Summary

April 27, 2009

very minimal, because if you don't transport, you don't get paid. District President Larry von Moos added that Dennis Murphy's plan will bring all providers under the umbrella of all services, which would be under one agency's control instead of duplicating. Randy Groves stated that this option by itself is not a solution, but has the potential to augment and add to other options.

- Scott Olmos stated that our system is in dire straits, and he believes looking to the federal government is a far stretch. He said looking at global ideas and towards grant money for relief are only temporary solutions. He urged the Task Force to remain focused, and asked, "Do you want to pay for ambulance transport service or not?"
- Councilor Mike Clark asked why General Fund support is not on the list, and why we are not discussing this as an option. Councilor Clark stated that Lane County is not in a stable financial position, and beyond the ASA boundary change option, it would be up to the City to provide basic services. He said there are going to be some difficult choices to make. Randy Groves stated that this option could be added to the mix, but reminded everyone that any General Fund adds would require a reduction somewhere else. Councilor Dave Ralston said there is no General Fund money, and no way to raise additional General Fund money. In fact Springfield has gotten to the point of taking money out of reserves. He added that an ambulance taxing district provides its own funding source.
- Councilor John Woodrow stated that there is no General Fund money at all. He said that the County and cities budgets should look at how can to encompass a fire district or ambulance taxing district. He confirmed that if there is a traffic accident, and a fire engine responds, and somebody is trapped, both firefighters and paramedics respond (in this case, a mix of General Fund and Enterprise Fund money supports the call). He said he still does not see how full privatization will be beneficial. He does see potential cost savings of a district being formed, and would have to see how the ambulance taxing district would be different from full privatization besides a separate funding source. Randy Groves explained that the taxing district concept would provide stable financial support and could possibly drop rates, but there would still need to be some level of rates – similar to the system Florence current operates under. Dale Borland added that this is a long-term goal, and that we do not know how it will look yet with multi-role people. He said it will take some time to do the homework, but noted that it is time to re-think how we do business. He added that this option needs to be looked at. In the end, it will be the will of the taxpayers. Randy Groves confirmed with the Task Force that the majority of elected officials are interested in exploring the taxing district option. Councilor Dave Ralston asked to see how it relates to compression. Councilor John Woodrow asked for more information.
- Councilor Andrea Ortiz asked if either the LCOG study or the ESCi study is looking at the ASA boundary option and what a reconfiguration would look like, to which Randy Groves replied no. He went on to add that representatives from Eugene, Lane Rural Fire/Rescue and Lane County Fire District #1 have been in discussions about what a reconfiguration would look like. The current discussions would include Eugene and Lane Rural.

CENTRAL LANE AMBULANCE TRANSPORT SYSTEM JOINT ELECTED OFFICIALS TASK FORCE

Meeting Summary

April 27, 2009

- Commissioner Rob Handy announced that the County is in the process of implementing a grass roots collaborative effort where the County works with partnerships in the community on the initiative process to determine ballot items. The goal is for the County to be more successful with what it takes to win a campaign. He said that as the Task Force's recommendations move forward, he would like to bring the information through this new grass roots process.
- Randy Groves mentioned that there was a joint group that met previously to discuss options for jail, corrections, treatment and ambulance service. He said that group believed there was potential with larger public safety piece elements, and there is a need to collaborate within the larger system.
- Councilor Mike Clark noted that while he objects to the special district option, in principle, he is in agreement with the idea. He has seen over and over and over again (emphasis added) a general sense of resentment from the public when additional taxes are proposed, especially with a service that should be a primary priority with any government. He said we should be covering our first costs (higher priority) with the monies we already have.
- Scott Olmos said a special district is viewed as an economic belt tightening. He said the elected officials need to choose the functions that the City organizations need to perform, to prioritize safety and welfare of citizens, and to answer the core question as group of where to put the money.
- Councilor Andrea Ortiz said that she believes this process is not about tomorrow, but about a conversation that needs to happen so there will be a functioning system in 10 years. She supports putting costs for the ambulance system into the General Fund, but also wants to look at what is already being funded out of it. She thinks that asking taxpayers for more money would not be well received. Randy Groves added that he sees this Task Force providing recommendations for both the short-term and long-term. He reminded everyone that the system, in its current configuration and under its current funding structure will be out of reserves and operating in the red during this next fiscal year.
- Councilor Dave Ralston said the reality is some of the services the City provides (e.g., the library) are nice to have, but questioned whether or not the government should be providing this service. He said most of the General Fund money is used for building roads, sewers, etc. He wants information on other options, and made reference to forming a library district.
- District President Larry von Moos said a lot of money does not go to the system itself. The question that needs to be answered is, "Where do we want to put our money?" He explained that he has been working within this system for many years, and no one ever looked at the system going broke. He said it is time to have the discussion on other options.
- Denise Giard explained that ambulance service was assumed by the City in 1981, and was set up as a fee-for-service system. She said we now find ourselves at a difficult point of not being supported by user fees, and looking for ways to establish General Fund support. She reported on a recent meeting with Lane Rural and Lane County 1 that

CENTRAL LANE AMBULANCE TRANSPORT SYSTEM JOINT ELECTED OFFICIALS TASK FORCE

Meeting Summary

April 27, 2009

looked at options to support ambulance service. She said they looked at a reconfiguration of Zone 3 in ASA #4, which would reduce Eugene's revenue (approximately \$400,000 from FireMed memberships and ambulance transports) and allow for some additional stability in Lane Rural, but would not take care of response needs. She believes the Eugene City Council will have to look at a number of different options, including public/public partnerships and public/private partnerships.

- Councilor Mike Clark said he is willing to make the hard decisions, and advocated for a City-wide priority system and putting some portion of the General Fund aside to support items on the priority table.
- Randy Groves reported that he will make a brief presentation at Wednesday's Budget Committee meeting on the Ambulance Transport Fund, which will include reference to the Task Force's work. He reiterated that the City's General Fund has a \$12 million deficit that needs to be closed in FY10, and this deficit will grow in FY11 and FY12.
- Commissioner Rob Handy asked for more information on the Santa Clara newsletter article handout. Randy Groves said this article shows another impact that rate increases can have. It is the anecdotal story, reported by Santa Clara Fire Chief Randy Wood, of a 40+ year old male who was experiencing acute chest pain, and refused to be transported because of the cost. The story demonstrates the cost of excluding people from receiving care who really need it. He said the fact is that Eugene is seeing calls for service drop slightly; transports are down by approximately 8%. More people are saying they cannot afford to be transported. Randy Groves said that staff will provide more information for elected officials to make decisions on, and noted that it is about the money. Councilor Andrea Ortiz added that in contrast, hospital numbers are up. Dale Borland said that Lane Rural has discomfort with increasing rates, and believes we are pricing ourselves out of business. He added that it does not matter that it is medically necessary; the cost of doing business is driving us out of business. District President Larry von Moos said the Lane Rural Board is very concerned with the cost to the public, and stated they will look at and exercise all other options first. He has been involved with this system since 1969. He said the system is fragmented and costs are out of sight. Randy Groves said he included the article, not to speak against Springfield's recent rate increase, but because he believes it is important for everyone to understand the cause and effect of what is happening out in the community in the realm of our considerations. He added that in reality, Eugene will need to impose some level of rate increase. He also stated that in his discussions with Chief Murphy, Dennis didn't like increasing rates any more than he did, but it was necessary to keep the system afloat. Brian Evanoff stated that there is FireMed.
- Randy Groves then polled the elected officials on which options they are truly interested in considering, and which options they are not interested in looking at. Results of the poll are as follows:
 1. Rate and Mileage Increases: Provide more information – two “question marks” from Eugene.
 2. Consolidate/Merge Departmental/District Functions: Continue with ESCi study and provide more information – unanimous.

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

Meeting Summary

April 27, 2009

3. Create Ambulance Service Taxing District: Provide more information – two “yes” votes from Springfield, one “yes” vote from Eugene, one “no” vote from Eugene, a “yes” vote from the Commissioner who will work with the community through the grass roots partnership to develop criteria for getting this option on the ballot. Councilor Dave Ralston asked to see how this option relates to compression.
4. Create a Fire District that Incorporates Ambulance Transport into Its Base Budget: Provide more information – one “yes” vote from Springfield, one “no” vote from Springfield, two “yes” votes from Eugene, and a “yes” vote from the Commissioner.
5. Continue Congressional Lobbying Efforts to Increase Medicare/Medicaid Payments: Continue lobbying efforts and provide information – unanimous. Scott Olmos will find out the status of IAFF’s lobbying efforts in this area. Councilor Mike Clark asked if any group is lobbying for a single payer healthcare system. Randy Groves replied that nothing the City is working on involves Universal Health Care specifically, but he did not know whether or not one of our associations might have this on their agenda. Commissioner Rob Handy asked that the lobbying efforts report include the state task team that is looking at adjustments to Measure 47/50 (cut/cap measure) that passed some time ago.
6. Reconfigure ASA Boundaries – Redeployment of Ambulances: Run numbers and provide information – unanimous. Councilor Mike Clark asked if there is a zone priority when calls are dispatched. Denise Giard replied that dispatches are based on need for an ambulance. Randy Groves added that units dispatched to non-emergency calls are frequently re-routed when an emergency call comes in after dispatch.
7. Develop New Membership Initiatives/Programs: Springfield will continue working on a broad based mobile health care proposal and business plan and Springfield will provide more information when it becomes available. There was unanimous consensus that information on mobile health care would be provided on an information basis at some point – two “yes” votes from Springfield, two “yes” votes from Eugene, and a “yes” vote from the Commissioner. Randy Groves noted that this is a longer-term option that will help augment other options, but in and of itself would not be a singular solution to the structural funding problem of the system.
8. Responders Assessing and Triaging Calls for Service: Randy Groves discussed how prioritization and triaging of calls is already handled by Central Lane 9-1-1 through the Medical Priority Dispatching (MPD) process.
9. Additional General Fund Support: Provide more information – two “question marks” from Springfield, and two “yes” votes from Eugene. Commissioner Rob Handy noted that he is interested in the information, but that this is not a County level issue.
10. Adjusting Response Times: Provide information as requested by Commissioner Fleenor at the ATS Summit – one “yes” vote (with reservations) from Eugene, one “no” vote from Eugene, one “yes” vote from Springfield and one “no” vote

CENTRAL LANE AMBULANCE TRANSPORT SYSTEM JOINT ELECTED OFFICIALS TASK FORCE

Meeting Summary

April 27, 2009

from Springfield. Councilor Dave Ralston added that he believes it is important to take ownership and provide information on all options, because people need to know the situation we are in.

11. Full Privatization: The option of Full Privatization was unanimously removed from the table.

7. Register Guard Op-Ed Article

- Randy Groves presented Task Force members with the idea of creating an op-ed article for the Register Guard to help educate the public on the problems with the ambulance system. He said the article will also include information about this Task Force being formed to develop both short-term and long-term solution sets for policymakers to take action on.
- Councilor Mike Clark said he thinks it is a good idea to lay out the options and present the information to the public. Randy Groves noted that this would be a general education piece, and he would like to name members of the Task Force in the article. He also said that he saw this as the first in a series of communications to the public.
- Councilor Dave Ralston and Councilor Andrea Ortiz said they think it is important to show who is working on this issue. Councilor Andrea Ortiz added that she sees this step one of an open house, and it will be important to communicate that the final solutions have not yet been identified.
- Commissioner Rob Handy said he is interested in getting information out about a rate increase.
- District President Larry von Moos asked if any other agencies are working collaboratively on what we are doing. Randy Groves replied no, and added that many are very interested in what we are doing because we are trying to address the issue on a regional basis. He noted that there were people from all over the state watching the ATS Summit in other rooms here at 2nd and Chambers and on the government television channel. He added that all agencies are struggling with these issues. However, we are unique with policymakers working together to try and solve the issues regionally. In the end, even if all three departments do not implement the same solution sets, at least we will all know what the others are doing, and how it impacts our neighbors.
- Councilor John Woodrow confirmed that the idea is to present the problems to the public. Randy Groves stated that we can start with this article, create other news stories and bring final recommendations back in a full JEO format.
- Councilor Mike Clark stated that the op-ed piece should inform on the nature of the problems and highlight the unique approach to finding solutions. Randy Groves added that this is another opportunity to tell our story.
- Councilor Andrea Ortiz noted that reporters tend to “dig” for information, and she assured the group she will hold information close because these are broad policy issues. Randy Groves emphasized that the goal is to try to create an understanding of the problem.
- There was group consensus that staff will prepare a draft op-ed article that elected officials can weigh in on and edit.

**CENTRAL LANE AMBULANCE TRANSPORT SYSTEM
JOINT ELECTED OFFICIALS TASK FORCE
Meeting Summary
April 27, 2009**

8. Additional Issues

- No one brought forward any additional issues to discuss.
- Randy Groves reminded everyone to bring alternate dates they are available for a two-hour block of time to the next Task Force meeting, so we can secure a replacement for the meeting originally scheduled for May 25th, which is Memorial Day holiday.
- Randy Groves thanked everyone for making time to work on this issue, and the meeting was adjourned.

SANTA CLARA FIRE
DISTRICT

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:



INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:

Chiefs Desk 1

Training
News 1

Member
News 1

Safety
Report 2

Support
Report 2

Calendar 3

Presidents
Message 2

The Overhaul

Chief's Desk Chief Randy Wood

I'm working late one night here at the station, by myself, when I hear a knock at the door. Opening the door I see a 40 year old male and his girl friend that both have concerned looks on their faces. The male is holding on to his chest and asks if I can take his blood pressure. Asking the usual questions I determine he has non-radiating chest pain with no dizziness. Patient states he has a history of coronary blockage and his doctor says when he gets this pain to take nitro pills. Patient states that the nitro did give him some relief.

Immediately I inform him that I would like to call a medic unit for transport to Riverbend hospital. My patient informs me that he cannot afford an ambulance ride as his medical bills are already too high. He further insists that I take his blood pressure. I spend a fair amount of time trying to convince this patient (while I take his blood pressure) that an ambulance ride to the hospital is absolutely in

his best interest. He continues to tell me "not gonna happen".

Where am I going with this? I believe we will see more of this type of medical call in our near future. Continuing layoffs, canceled medical insurance policies and less money for medical treatment will be sending patients that have put off medical treatment until the condition is critical, to our door.

These individuals are hoping we can cure what ails them for next to free. Unfortunately many of these patients will drive themselves to the hospital or (hopefully) have someone else drive them to the hospital in an attempt to save the \$1000 ride.

I believe there to be a very high chance that my patient was having a cardiac event and he needed to be seen at a facility as soon as possible. I chose not to do monitoring, oxygen, blood draws or any of the usual treatments in order to facilitate the rapid transport to the hospital by the

patients girlfriend.

Question: "Can you stop treatment once started on a patient?" Normally we transfer care to another agency and our involvement is over.

When the patient notifies us that we will not be calling an ambulance, it is up to us to decide if patient care should be stopped or continued. It is critical that you attempt to make the situation serious enough (to the patient) that the patient understands it is in their best interest to use an ambulance as means to transport.

Step I missed, I alerted the hospital that the patient was enroute but did not speak with a doctor while the patient was still at the station.

If you get in this situation remember to document, document, and document. Get the patient to sign a refusal after the Doctor has spoke with the patient. You will need to document who you talked with and times for everything.

Be Safe, Chief Wood

Training Chris Anderson , Captain

Over the past several months we have been training on the "must haves". The "must haves" are the requirements that the state and OSHA require us to have. We must have these items taken care of so what everyone can certify each year. I have heard some

disapproval of the way drill has been going over the past several months, and I want you to know that my hands are tied when it comes to meeting the state's requirements for training. We have been relaxed in the past about the requirements, and making

sure that everyone that goes into a fire meets them. The fact is that if you don't have the required training done on time the district is responsible if you respond. This puts me and the district in the position of offering the training and relying on you to attend. If

