

## **Ad-Hoc Emergency Committee Meeting**

**August 21, 2014 @ 3:00 p.m., Eastville**

Members Present: Pat Coady, Willie Randall, Granville Hogg, Dr. Pam Gray

Also present: Hollye Carpenter, EMS Director  
Katie Nunez, County Administrator (late arriving)  
Janice Williams, County Administrator's Office  
Nancy Stern, Eastern Shore Rural Health

The meeting of the Ad-Hoc Emergency Committee was convened at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Randall moved to approve the agenda and was seconded by Dr. Gray. The motion was unanimously passed.

Motion was made by Mr. Randall, seconded by Dr. Gray, that Pat Coady be nominated as Chairman. There being no further nominations, the floor was closed. Dr. Gray, Mr. Hogg and Mr. Randall voted "yes"; Mr. Coady abstained. The motion was passed and Mr. Coady assumed the chair.

Mr. Randall moved to approve the June 26, 2014 minutes and was seconded by Dr. Gray. The motion was passed with Mr. Hogg abstaining.

At this time, Chairman Coady recognized Mrs. Nancy Stern, Chief Executive Officer for the Eastern Shore Rural Health System, Inc., and noted that with the move of the hospital and ER as well as some medical staff out of the county, what can this committee do to replace the loss of emergency care and reduce the impact on our emergency medical services, who will be facing an additional hour's transportation time; and develop a set of protocols that allow non-emergency transport not to go to the hospital. It has been estimated that an additional \$600,000+ will be needed by EMS for additional staffing. Mr. Coady noted that the committee has looked at, a stand-alone ER, a stand-alone critical care, and rural health centers. In each case, the solutions were not fiscally defensible. He said that we have to encourage some type of urgent care to provide evening and week-end hours to the public so that non-emergency uses do not have to be transported to the hospital. He commented that we are looking for a player to provide coverage for the "gap" days/times and are open to all creative solutions.

Mr. Randall commented that it was his understanding that the cancer center building will be left in Nassawadox as well as ESPS, to be converted to some type of urgent care.

In response to questions, Mrs. Stern said that ESRH has seen no change in the numbers and demographics of patients since Riverside arrived. Currently 32% of their patient base is insured of the 36,000 in total. She noted that preliminary usage figures at the Cape Charles Center have indicated light/marginal use so far with the newly-implemented expanded Saturday hours. ESRH's own patient surveys revealed not enough demand to cover extended hours in Bayview or Franktown. ESRH's office hours are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with one late night (til 7 p.m.) per month at Bayview and one late night at Franktown. These minimal late-night hours were put in place as a result of limited client demand. In addition, the Onley facility provides Saturday morning hours (8 a.m. to 1 p.m.). Chincoteague's facility provides Saturday coverage seasonally.

Mrs. Stern said that radiological equipment is a large capital component for any facility and that the Franktown and Bayview Centers do not have x-ray capability. Mr. Coady noted that he does not believe that CAT scans or MRI technology will be duplicated at the new hospital.

Mr. Randall asked if ESHR has considered one large facility at Eastville and closing down the Bayview and Franktown sites. Mrs. Stern replied that this idea has been discussed and will again be discussed at their fall strategic planning session. Her vision of one large campus would entail multiple wings for primary care, dental, urgent care, and even a helicopter pad. But transportation is the number one issue of ESHR clients and she was concerned that an Eastville location may not be well received by the patients who would have to drive further. In fact, ESHR's "no-show" rate was 20-25%.

Mrs. Stern reported that during the last four years, advertising efforts by ESHR have included tent cards for local hotels and B&Bs, informational materials at the Welcome Center, radio slots, coverage in both local newspapers and multiple speaking opportunities with the local civic organizations.

Mr. Coady said that he believed the area could support a basic-level urgent care facility but not two. The committee is looking for the best partner with the best plan for heading forward.

Mr. Hogg questioned whether there was an advantage to co-locating an emergency medical services facility and ESHR. He was looking at an Eastville location due to the advantages of water & sewer and access to Rt. 13.

Dr. Gray noted that Riverside could block issuance of a certificate of need for a location in the Eastville area.

In an effort to provide assistance to ESHR and its decision-making process, Chairman Coady agreed to act as contact for the ESHR fall strategic planning session, noting that he believed the group would be happy to participate. Mrs. Stern will report the items discussed at this committee meeting back to the ESRH Board of Directors.

Mr. Randall left the meeting at 4:35 p.m. Mrs. Nunez arrived at 4:50 p.m.

The group briefly discussed the recent tornado which struck the Cherrystone area; the Chairman called it a “wonderful test of communications and response”.

With the current vacancy as a result of Ms. Martina Coker’s resignation, the name of the newly-elected Cape Charles Mayor, George Proto, was put forward for consideration by the Board of Supervisors.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Tuesday, September 23, 2014, commencing at 5:00 p.m. Representatives from the County’s three rescue squads will be invited to participate. Ms. Carpenter will handle the invitations.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Williams  
County Administrator’s Office