

# City EMS Advisory Board

## Minutes

Date/Time: March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 1:30 pm-2:30 pm

Location: Fire Training Center, 1900 9<sup>th</sup> St South

### Members Present:

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. Dr. Dave Simpson | EMS Medical Director, Vice Chair              |
| 2. Justin Grohs     | Great Falls Emergency Services Manager        |
| 3. Jeremy Virts     | Great Falls Fire Rescue Deputy Chief of EMS   |
| 4. Lanni Klasner    | Communication Specialist/Neighborhood Council |
| 5. Karen Young      | 911 Director                                  |
| 6. Brook Wells      | GFFR Paramedic                                |
| 7. Kate Brewer      | Community Risk Reduction Manager              |

### Ex-Officio Members:

- |                       |                                 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Kyle Baker         | Benefis Trauma Coordinator      |
| 2. Dr. Stuart         | GFES Medical Director           |
| 3. Tia Kuntz          | Benefis Trauma                  |
| 4. Scott Schandelson  | Benefis ER Manager              |
| 5. Rachelle Molinario | Great Falls Hospital ER Manager |
| 6. Lana Vertees       | Great Falls Hospital ER         |

The meeting was brought to order by Deputy Chief Virts at 1330 hrs. Roll call was conducted (see above). A motion to approve the meeting minutes from Dec 19<sup>th</sup> /2023 as read was made by Dr. Simpson and a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion was made by Brewer. Motion passed.

No Public comment was made when asked for.

## **Old Business**

1. Trauma designation progress. Kyle baker explained the progress of the Benefis trauma designation and new positions within the trauma services. The Trauma Coordinator now reports directly to hospital president (or designee).

## **New Business**

Kyle Baker introduced new members of the Benefis Trauma services team. Tia Kuntz is an outreach coordinator who will work directly with local fire/ems and regional hospitals on trauma reporting. Tia will also be involved in training and education such as car seat installs, stop the bleed classes and overall trauma care.

Virts expressed a concern with trauma registry times imported from the dispatch center may not always be accurate. If the system is evaluated on scene times for Alert 1 status trauma patients, the times need to be double checked if the call falls out during the QA/QI process. Virts will check with the City of Great Falls legal department about legalities of changing things on an official patient record after the times are imported.

Rachelle reported on the status of the Great Falls Hospital's ability to receive higher acuity patients. This is on hold due to not having cardiologists commit to 24/7 coverage of the cath lab. Virts also revisited the topic of inbound patient reports and the GFH ER's ability to consistently receive radio reports. As of this meeting, portable radios had not been purchased. The concern is for the 911 EMS system and the resources being taxed with moving the patient's twice in the event the GFH receives a patient that now has to be transferred to Benefis. This is a private contract between GFH and GFES, but resources are taken for the 911 system to perform that unit of work.

Virts talked about the auto-aid GIS mapping and that GFFR will need to be requested for mutual aid with regard to fires outside our normal response zones. We will continue to auto-aid respond for MVA's.

GFFR will look at training more with Mercy Flight for expectations on landing zones in the event MF is needed on scene calls. In the event MF is canceled en-route, they will do so only if GFFR or GFES paramedics are on scene.

Motion to adjourn-Brook  
2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion-Justin Grohs  
Meeting adjourned: 1430 hrs

Next meeting date: June 20<sup>th</sup> , 2023 @ 1:30 pm