



# Rural Health Community Systems, Inc.

## Regular Monthly Minutes May 6, 2009

### **Present:**

Mike Sprague	Tina Goodwin	Tim Marshall, Reporting Sec.
Elaine Meyers	Everett Ferguson-Chairman	Jeanie Tomkalski
Jennifer Reed	George Bliss	Gary Whiteman
Network Consultant, Betty Wattenberg		

### **Excused:**

Art Jones	Nan Hammes	Bob Rajscky
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### **Not In Attendance:**

Al Lewis	Dave Hopkins
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### **Guest:**

Gary Pruyn-Steuben County Youth Bureau, Vanessa Jewitt-EMSTAR, Letitia Osborne-American Heart Association

Meeting was held on May 6, 2009 at the Steuben County 911/Emergency Services Office. Thank you to Tina and the 911 staff for hosting the meeting. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Everett Ferguson at 9:29 a.m.

*The minutes from the March meeting were approved with no changes.*

### **Presentation-Steuben County Youth Bureau Program Overview**

Gary Pruyn discussed the youth bureau and specifically their mentoring program. Gary spoke about the Boy Scouts Fire Explorer program that he was involved in prior to coming to the county and how successful that program has been. What made this program so successful were the good "hands-on" activities with the Adult supervisors. Gary would like to work on partnering with any organization that serves kids. The EMS youth Corp could work if we decided to address that issue again. *{Current funding mechanisms have failed to finance this rural health network project.}* The reluctance, Gary believes, is liability. The Mentoring program and EMS have the potential to come together, somehow some way. But we need to work together to find a solution. The Youth Bureau through their capability can do the Adult training, background checks and mentor training.

The Network Consultant added that years ago we had a youth corps, but the program was not successful in bridging the gap between the kids and the squads. The network would love to work with the youth bureau on these issues but asked how do we make these connections? Gary indicated that we need to provide organized activities and social events to keep interest in the program. Everett asked Gary for his take on the liability issue. Gary indicated that if we go into a partnership that the youth bureau volunteers are county insured and the County is self-insured and he would approach the County attorney

on this issue. Judy Blair added that the Regional Council just added a new EMS classification for “non-certified responder”, which might fit into this type of a situation.

The Network Consultant indicated that we were looking into a grant working with BOCES but that application did not evolve in time so it was pulled. Gary indicated that BOCES would be a great partnership and he indicated that he is willing to work with us to make something happen in this area.

### **10,000 Links in the Chain of Survival:**

A new and improved plan for the 10,000 links promotion was presented. The role of the network and the central focus is **Marketing**. The network would market the program and point out that each individual citizen of Steuben County can be a link in the chain of survival. This would be a “Partnership Project” and each network partner agency would benefit with additional contacts, visibility, new and reoccurring revenue from the promotion of the program. RHCS would objectives are recruitment and retention and public awareness. George asked if agency fees still apply. Yes. RHCS does not have money to hire instructors or pay for training. All the network partners would need to promote this project during the summer with classes to begin in September. Jeanie said it would fit in nicely, and Red cross hopes to coordinate the volunteer instructors. Red Cross would promote through schools, scouts and other agency partners that they have.

Vanessa (EMSTAR Guest) demonstrated the American Heart “Friends and Family CPR Anytime” Program. This is a kit that can be purchased and handed out to individuals. The kit has an instructional DVD video and a “blow up” manikin. Using that kit it would only take about twenty minutes to go through the lesson. There is no American Heart Association written test with this kit. Participants would be learning a process and it is not meant for certification. The kit has replacement lungs and mouth wipes that can easily be transferred between family members.

Everett asked if there are certified American Heart instructors in Steuben County. Vanessa indicated yes. Does EMSTAR offer Instructor Training? Vanessa indicated yes and that Art just completed his re-certification. Instructors must call and register for a course and when they have enough to teach a class they will hold one.

Letitia Osborne, Senior Program Manager for the Northeast Region for the American Heart Association was introduced. She was invited to come to our meeting to provide more detailed information about AHA training programs. George asked about how AHA evaluates the benefit of the friends and family program. Vanessa indicated that they provide evaluation cards to individuals who picked up the kits. Letitia also indicated that they also have a pledge card so that the provider indicated they will pledge to train a certain number of individuals. The list cost is about \$35 but EMSTAR has a discount because they do bulk purchasing. Letitia recommended that we work through EMSTAR to order kits if this is the way that we wish to go. It was thought that we should look at finding corporate sponsors to help defray the costs.

Consensus among the partners was that the *10,000 Links in the Chain of Survival* is a good project for the Partnership. There is a concern that standardization of pricing is important and there needs to be a menu of options for training. There is a need for both certified and non-certified courses. Mike suggested talking with the Magistrates and having them support us with anyone who is involved in

certain types of fines will be sentenced to doing CPR Training. We need to work out all these details over the next few months. *Please send Betty the cost make-up of all available courses.*

### **By-Laws**

Copies of the proposed By-Laws were provided. *Motion was made by Tim, Second by George to adopt the By-laws with the proposed Amendments. Motion was made by Mike, Second by Judy Blair tabling until the next meeting for full review for the purpose of seven days written approval of all members*

### **County EMS Proclamation**

Mike reported on the May 18<sup>th</sup> EMS Day in Steuben County. Mike and Betty reviewed the Agenda and the invitations of those invited. Mike will have a presentation of the EMS Agency and Provider of the year along with some Proclamations by the State and of course the County Legislature.

### **Farm Medic**

Tim had a discussion with Dave Oliver from Hammondsport Ambulance about his involvement with the Penn State Agricultural Rescue Training Program. Dave Hill who was with FARMMEDIC Alfred is now doing the Penn State Program and is interested in expanding the program into New York. There was discussion about funding, the Network Consultant indicated that we are not able to support it due to funding and because it is clinical training and we can't duplicate existing clinical training. George asked if we could approach AHEC, Rural Health Education Centers for some funding. Judy indicated that EMSTAR will look at the information and she will talk with Bob about funding. The Partners felt there was consensus that there needs to be 'buy-in' from the local responders. Local responders need to pay something for this training. Mike said that \$25 per student is not unrealistic. Judy said that most of the EMSTAR funding is tied up in contract and she felt that there would be some issues if they go outside the listed funding that is already on the books. Tim indicated that Penn State would be looking at a fall training. Tina said that the 911 Center coordinates with NYCAD New York Center for Agriculture Development who investigate and document farm accidents and injuries. Tina indicated that they may be interested in funding such a program?

### **Coordinator of Network Initiative**

*Tim made a motion to approve Art's written report, Second by Mike all Approved.*

### **E-PCR**

Judy indicated that the State is working toward going with the NEVIS system for supporting a Statewide E-PCR program. We need to see if our E-PCR program will support this NEMIS architecture. EMSTAR is also working on the Fremont issue, the state has lost the paperwork several times.

*Meeting was Adjourn at 10:58*

**Next Meeting: Steuben County Office Building**  
**Conference Room F-1**  
**June 3, 2009 @ 9:30 A.M.**