

Wapello County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council

Minutes from the meeting Held on July 15th, 2026 @ 5:30pm

- 1.) Roll Call: T.J. Millikin, Lori Reeves, Amanda Hull, Quincy Keck, Peter Reiter, Robert Vaughn, Bryan Ziegler, Loren McIntosh, Gary Collett, Cindy Hewitt, Tim Richmond, Jean Dell, Preston Potts, David Cronin.
 - a. Absent members: Athena Sears, Billy Hoffman Jr, Dr. Lyssy
- 2.) Approval of minutes from the June 24th, 2026 meeting: 1st Peter 2nd Loren All in favor
- 3.) Ambulance proposal from Ottumwa Fire Department: no presentation as Fire Chief Canto sent an email to everyone stating he would be out of town for the meeting. He did however provide a link via email to access the document. If anyone wants a printed version of the document let Tim Richmond know and he will get one for you.
- 4.) Report from ACAD visit:
MIH Talk with ACAD
 - a. Tim, Amanda, TJ, and Jake all went to Adair County Ambulance District on July 1st, 2026 and talked with them about Mobile Integrated Health and/or Community Paramedicine. This visit will have notes sent out to the group in a different email.
 - b. After talking about the ACAD visit Tim informed the group that Jake and himself revisited talking with Joy at River Hills. River Hills has talked about doing some type of mobile clinic. They also talked to Joy about putting an application into the state for the upcoming bill that is coming down the line that supports MIH/Community Paramedicine programs.
 - c. Riverhills and ORHC are working on getting a meeting set up to also talk about how the application could look.
 - d. Joy was thinking they would be putting a Nurse Practitioner in the mobile clinic position so they can bill for the service due to Medicare/Medicaid not paying for it to be a paramedic in the position as of yet. This may change depending on the bill and other variables.

Dispatch in Kirksville (Adair County)

- a. After visiting the ambulance district, we all also went and looked at Adair County 911 dispatch center. TJ reported that they are an EMD center and that they use the Pro QA system to do it.
- b. As we were talking about dispatch the following things were brought up and are relevant to our future goals and topics that we are needing to talk deeper about with our current dispatch we have here in Wapello County.
 - a. TJ reported that he did get a quote with Priority Dispatch and that the set up would cost around \$80-100K with a shared dispatch center or if it was just a single dispatch center it would run around \$140k
 - b. Currently the 911 surcharge is \$1 per phone line and the county receives 60% of that \$1 on wireless lines and 100% from landlines. The other 40% from wireless lines goes to the State.
 - c. We were advised that the 911 Board meeting is to be held 7-16-2026 and at that meeting Tim is planning to ask for a RFP consultant for infrastructure of our current system and also get a view on a combined dispatch center instead of having it split up into City and County.
 - d. In 2021 it was estimated that it would cost around 7 million dollars to build 4 new towers in the county as we have enough coverage area that a total of 5 is needed. We do currently have 1

tower. They would also like to see it changed from the VHF system to 708mghz system. Tim advised VHF over longer area however 708mghz can go thru “walls” such as in buildings and house as the VHF system does not always allow responders to communicate properly with others once they are inside a building or house.

- e. Tim also reported that the 911 board did just invest \$40,000 to EMS at ORMICS for radio changes. More information can be found about this via the 911 Board.

5.) Revisit work plan, make scheduling adjustments:

- a. Joint meeting with OFD, City Council, Board of Supervisors when will this happen? This question brought up a lot of talk about several different things and they are listed below:
 - i. We need information from ORHC and Richard the CEO will have the plans the hospital is looking at or their needs provided to this group by next meeting.
 - ii. Richard did provide a Ottumwa Regional Health Center Ambulance Service Line document to Tim who gave all attendees copies of it with 2025 numbers on it.
- b. As we were all talking about ORHC and ORMICS the group got to meet Mark Frymoyer’s replacement as Mark is no longer with ORMICS/ORHC. Robert Vaughn is in the interim position as the ORMICS manager and will be attending these meetings. Robert gave the group and update about the current staffing and equipment at ORMICS:
 - i. Robert stated that the hospital just finished paying for 2 new ambulance and 1 ambulance to be remounted. Robert stated that the remounted ambulance is projected to take about 9 months before AREO is done with it however the other 2 ambulance should be road ready and on the streets within the next 2-3 weeks.
 - ii. Robert reported that ORMICS places on keeping 5 ambulances at all times that all are ready to be used at any given time. He just sat down and worked with his bosses on a 5,10,15 year plan on ambulance replacement schedules.
 - iii. Robert also reported that they have had 7 interviews for positions on the ambulance and have extended offers to several of these people with hopes to have staffing issues fixed. They are hoping to have 2 crews on days and nights from now on and also, they have opened and reposted the 10-22 line that will give them 3 crews from 10am to 10pm as this has been proven to be a busy time for multiple calls at a time.
- c. The group was reminded that we are expected to come to the elected officials with a proposal on how we all see EMS going in the future. To get to this point we all have homework to get done before the next meeting and before a joint meeting can be held.
 - i. Between now and the July 29th, meeting any proposals or recommendations need to be submitted to the group.
 - ii. We need to all review the document that Chief Canto sent to us as it does have OFDs proposal/recommendations in it.

6.) Rural Health Transformation Grant for Mobile Integrated Health:

- a. This topic was covered some in the talks about agenda #4 and can be revisited at a later meeting.

7.) Other discussion:

- a. Next meeting we will be looking at page 18 in the booklet that Tim has provided to the group a couple meetings back.
- b. Next meeting we will figure out a structure that we would like to have for the Joint Meeting such as providing just the high points of view points and recommendations from ORHC and OFD.

8.) Next meeting:

- a. The next meeting is scheduled for July 29th, 2026 @ 5:30pm to be held at the Wapello County EMA office

9.) Adjourn:

- a. Meeting called to end at 19:15 1st Loren 2nd Cindy All in favor.