

Morgan County Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
Transport Meeting with representatives from Morgan County Rescue Squad, War
Memorial Hospital, Valley Health, Valley Medical Transport and WV Medical
Command
June 9, 2011

Present: President Stacy Dugan, Commissioner Brenda Hutchinson, and Commissioner Brad Close

Also Present: Jody McClintock, County Administrator, Ginger Johnson, Commission Secretary, Bob Dugan, Kim Michael, Tricia Strader, Kevin Duckwall, Dan Duckwall, Renea Stansbury, Todd Songer, Kate Shunney, Phil Spriggs, Chris Rucker, Kevin Sites, Neil McLaughlin, Lawrence Pantruso and Stellman Teter

The meeting was opened by Cathy Payne, Chief Deputy County Clerk at 9:30 a.m.

The County Commission had a meeting with representatives from Morgan County Rescue Squad, War Memorial Hospital, Valley Health, Valley Medical Transport and WV Medical Command to discuss transports. President Dugan asked what happens if a patient wants to be taken to another hospital other than War Memorial Hospital. Kevin Duckwall, Morgan County Rescue Squad, stated that the rescue personnel access the situation and patient, talk with Medcom and decide where to take the patient. Mr. Duckwall stated that usually the patient will go to the closest facility. Mr. Duckwall stated that they try to accommodate, but according to WV code, they are required to take the patient to War Memorial Hospital. President Dugan asked why a patient that is taken to War Memorial Hospital and has to be transported may wait 4 or 5 hours before they are transported. Neil McLaughlin, War Memorial Hospital, explained that depends on the accepting physician. Mr. McLaughlin stated that the ambulance has to have a trained professional available to travel with the transport, and the facility has to have an accepting physician and be available for the care needed for the patient. Mr. McLaughlin stated that this takes time and has to be approved before the transport can happen. Mr. McLaughlin stated that he believes the delay in transporting patients is the result of having a physician available and facility space. Mr. McLaughlin stated that War Memorial Hospital has approximately 30 or 40 transports a month to other facilities. Commissioner Close asked about the break even point for transports. Chris Rucker replied that they average around 4 or 5 a day. Currently Morgan County averages one per day. President Dugan explained a situation that was brought to her attention regarding a patient that needed to be transported immediately, and the rescue squad wasn't available so a helicopter was used for the transport. President Dugan stated that the bill for the helicopter was \$19,000. President Dugan asked why the Morgan County

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Rescue Squad couldn't take the patient. President Dugan stated that the Morgan County Rescue Service is licensed to do transports, but they still need to be certified before they can perform transports. Phil Spriggs, citizen, approached and stated that his cardiologist is in Cumberland, Md. Mr. Spriggs asked how he could get to Cumberland, Md. instead of being taken to War Memorial Hospital in an emergency. Lawrence Pantruso, WV Medical Command, stated that there is a waiver form that patients can sign to be taken to the facility of their choice. Chris Rucker, Valley Health, requested that Kevin Duckwall review the reports and see how many critical care patients they have and the cost of higher critical care training. Larry Pantruso, WV Medical Command explained that there are levels of care from advanced life support. Mr. Pantruso explained the following levels-

Class 4- Basic

Class 3- Additional Training

Class 2- Critical Care Services

Class 1- Critical Care transport with registered nurse

Class 0- Specialized transport with licensed care

The Morgan County Rescue Squad and representatives from War Memorial Hospital, Valley Health, Valley Medical Transport and WV Medical Command will meet with the County Commission on August 18, 2011 to discuss the price for Class 3 additional training and further discuss the option of transporting.

Adjournment

On a Brad Close/Brenda Hutchinson motion, the County Commission adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m. This motion carried.