

Board Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2020

Approved
8/7/2020

Board Members Present

Dr. Gregory Faimon
Comm. Ricky James
Director Deb Kaufman
Chief Shane Pearson
Mr. Chad Pore
Director John Ralston
Comm. Bob Saueressig
Dr. Martin Sellberg
Director Jeri Smith
Mr. Dennis Shelby

Staff Present

Joseph House
Curt Shreckengast
Suzette Smith

Board Members Absent

Rep. Eplee
Sen. Faust-Goudeau
Rep. Henderson
Dr. Joel Hornung

Attorney

Whitney Casement

Call to Order

Vice-Chairman Pore called the Board Meeting to order on Friday, April 3, 2020 at 10:01 a.m. via teleconference call. A roll call by Director House found the above board members present.

Director Ralston made a motion to approve the February 7, 2020 and March 20, 2020 minutes. Dr. Faimon seconded the motion. No discussion. No opposition noted. The motion carried.

New Business

- The KRAF committee recommendation for this year's awards was discussed. Vice-Chairman Pore gave an overview of the committee's meeting held in early March in Salina. All applications were reviewed at that meeting. The Committee recommended the Board award 21 grants. Recently the FDA sent a letter out on AED's they identified that would no longer be eligible to use or supported beginning in 2021. Many of this year's KRAF applications were to replace ineligible monitors. The focus of the Committee was that each

service would have at least one FDA approved monitor, and then the Committee looked at one per station. Director House gave an update on developments since the Committee met. The estimated ending balance of available funding has come into question. KRAF funding comes from fines and penalties from district courts. Most district courts are not hearing cases at this time so we anticipate a slowdown of funding. At the end of March there was \$284,291 in funding. This is \$70,080 short of the amount needed for all 21 awards. During the Committee's process there were four applications they came back to. With the shortfall it is not anticipated that all 21 applications can be funded. Director House provided two options. The first would be to not award the last four items and cut the remaining shortfall from the direct payment of regional funding. If the balance grows, then the distribution to the regions could be put back in part or whole. The second option is to hold the last four awards and only award the first 17 and hold the regional distribution. On May 31st we would look to see if KRAF funding is greater than \$325,000. If so, then the last four applications could be awarded but still eliminate all regional distribution. If no, then we do not award the last four applications and would pay each region proportionally then roll over any remaining funds for next year.

Vice-Chairman Pore made a motion to approve the recommendation from the KRAF Committee and go with option 2 based on a review of available funding thru May 31, 2020. Dr. Faimon seconded the motion. There was discussion including local match by all awardees and the uncertainty for the funding stream. No opposition noted. The motion carried.

- A COVID-19 update was provided by Director House. He provided a summary of world and state statistics that keep ratcheting up. The United States is up to 6,000 fatalities and Kansas has 44 counties with positive cases. Of the 552 cases in Kansas, 447 are attributed to the KC Metro area and Sedgwick County. He is monitoring Emergency Management teleconferences every day. A lot of time is being spent squashing rumors. The peak season in Kansas is projected to be within 18 days, which is the week of April 20. Guidance documents have been put out to services. This is to help with how you may want to change the approach of a service. Call volume and transporting trends were reviewed and we are down 25%. One service reported they were starting down the path of a staffing shortage, but it resolved itself. We get calls from the public that an ambulance service is in trouble, but the service says no. He asked that if you have a staffing shortage, you let him know.
- On examinations the National Registry has done a great job on provisional certifications. Director House doesn't think we have a mechanism in place for this. But if the Board desires pursuit of it, we could look down that path. National Registry says if the cognitive exam is passed, then a provisional certification would be issued. Vice-Chairman Pore asked how many people in Kansas have passed the cognitive, but not skills. Director House reported there are 55. He also reported that Pearson Vue says testing is opened up to essential testing with a limited number of seats. EMS is considered essential. He also said Board staff can do mobile testing. He would need a large room to allow adequate distancing, but it is very possible. He would want to host testing in the same area as skills testing. Mr. Shelby added that physicians are being allowed to crossover state lines and also that medical students and residents are being allowed to help out. While provisional certifications could be looked into, Director House said testing has not stopped in Kansas so he is hesitant to work on this yet. He said there are a couple changes on ALS exams. Mannequins will be used instead of live patients and instead of a partner they will have a verbal assistant.

- For Agency Operations the office will be restoring back to limited staff on April 6, 2020. This will allow about 98% of functions, but inspections and audits are curtailed by travel restrictions. State office buildings will remain closed through April 19, 2020.
- Vice-Chairman Pore asked about any additional conference calls with service directors. Director House said he would have them as needed and probably next week.
- Vice-Chairman Pore said service renewals are due by the end of April and suggested services do not wait to renew.
- Director House was asked by Emergency Management to report the number of transport ventilators. He put out a survey and with 90% of the services reporting, there are 270. Vice-Chairman Pore stressed the importance of training in the proper use of ventilators.
- At this time only one person has put their name in for the 911 Coordinating Counsel.

Director Ralston made a motion to recommend to the Governor that Nick Robbins be appointed to the 911 Coordinating Council. Dr. Sellberg seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- Chief Pearson received a call from a small volunteer service regarding a screening process on calls for assistance to offer protection to law enforcement and others arriving on scene. He asked if there is another resource where a local dispatch center could transfer calls to ask questions on COVID-19. Vice-Chairman Pore suggested the 911 Coordinating Council might be contacted to see if these basic questions could be asked. Director House will bring it up to them and emphasize they should take this back home to local areas and give the information on why it needs done.
- Vice-Chairman Pore thanked everyone for the job they are going. He stressed that this is a time to keep working together and reach out to your neighbors. He also reminded board members that meetings may be called impromptu and to please respond quickly.

Vice-Chairman Pore adjourned the meeting at 11:07 a.m.