

ORDINANCE

SUBJECT: JOINT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMISSION

COMMITTEE: JUDICIARY AND LAW COMMITTEE, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

FIRST CONSIDERATION: September 18, 2008

FINAL CONSIDERATION: November 10, 2008

ORDINANCE #67 - 11/08 **PUBLICATION DATE** 11/26/08

The County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County does ordain as follows:

**AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL S. 1.55(2)(c) AND CREATE S. 1.77
TO BE ENTITLED "JOINT CITY/COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
COMMISSION" OF THE GENERAL CODE OF
LA CROSSE COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

ANALYSIS

Counties, cities and villages are permitted, but not required by Wisconsin statutes s. 59.24, 62.133, and 61.64 to "purchase, equip, operate and maintain ambulances and contract for ambulance service with one or more providers for the conveyance of the sick or injured." The towns also have authority under s. 60.565 to contract for or operate and maintain ambulance services unless such services are provided by another person. Wis. Stat. s. 66.0301 authorizes cooperation between municipalities for the joint exercise of any power or duty.

Ordinance #67 removes the oversight of ambulance service in La Crosse County from the Public-Safety Communications Board which is largely made up of appointed officials by deleting s. 1.55(2)(c) of the County Code of Ordinances. In its place, a Joint City/County Emergency Medical Services Commission is created by enacting s. 1.77 (hereinafter referred to as the "EMS Commission.")

The EMS Commission shall be composed of the following voting members:

- 2 from the County of La Crosse – County Board Chair and First Vice Chair, or their designees
- 3 from the City of La Crosse - Mayor, City Council Member, or their designees and a citizen appointed by the Mayor
- 1 from City of Onalaska – Mayor or his/her designee
- 1 from the towns in the County – La Crosse County Unit Chair of the Towns Association
- 1 from the villages in the County – elected official determined by the villages
- 1 from Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center
- 1 from Franciscan Skemp Medical Center

The following will be non-voting ex-officio members of the Commission:

- Physician from Gundersen Lutheran
- Physician from Franciscan Skemp

10/23/08

Vacancies on the EMS Commission are caused by the death, removal, retirement or resignation of a member or when the member ceases to be an elected official or representative of the entity that he/she represents. Officers of the EMS Commission are elected from their number by the members every other year.

The duties and powers of the EMS Commission include the following:

- Establish standards and contract for emergency medical services in the County, review provider performance and report on performance to the governmental entities in the County.
- Develop personnel standards for paramedics in compliance with the Wis. Admin. Code HFS 112 and turnover rate standards.
- Develop scope of services in the following areas: response time standards for advanced life support services, plan for 24 hour / 365 day coverage, Mutual Aid Agreements, and transfer of individuals to a more appropriate inpatient behavioral health unit.
- Authority to approve an ambulance service provider before that provider enters an ambulance into service.
- Develop vehicle and equipment requirements.
- Establish EMS System Communications and Standards in compliance with State Admin. Code.
- Authority to approve, remove and replace the EMS Medical Director.
- Develop standards for quality assurance in various areas.
- Establish insurance coverage requirements for ambulance providers.
- Develop standards/requirements for data collection, reports and records.

The ordinance shall take effect after its passage and publication. Each municipality in La Crosse County may have the ambulance service provided to their entity subject to the standards established by the EMS Commission by signing an intergovernmental agreement under the authority of Wis. Stat. s. 66.0301 in which the municipalities agree to accept the provisions of this ordinance.

INFORMATION:

County Board Rules: Governing Body s. 2.02(8) states, in part: Ordinances are drafted by the Corporation Counsel. After the ordinance has been reviewed by a standing committee, each Supervisor will be given a copy of the ordinance showing the deleted language (grayed) and the new language (underlined) and an analysis of the intent of the ordinance. After introduction to the County Board, the ordinance shall be referred to the next monthly meeting unless waived by a 2/3 vote of the Supervisors present and a public hearing may be held if requested by a Supervisor. An amendment may be introduced and debated at either the original or the referred meeting. Copies of the ordinances of the County of La Crosse in their entirety are available with Corporation Counsel, County Clerk, or www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/code/.

ORDINANCE #67

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COMMISSION" OF THE GENERAL CODE OF
LA CROSSE COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes, counties, cities, villages and towns possess concurrent jurisdiction to provide ambulance services to the citizens of their respective entities; and,

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statute Section 66.0301 authorizes cooperation between municipalities for the joint exercise of any power or duty, and,

WHEREAS, the County of La Crosse and City of La Crosse find that it is in the public interest to create the Joint City/County Emergency Medical Services Commission to promote intergovernmental cooperation among all municipalities of the County in providing ambulance services for the conveyance of the sick and injured.

NOW THEREFORE, the County Board of Supervisors does ordain as follows:

SECTION I. Section 1.55(2)(c) regarding the Public Safety Communications Board making recommendations to the Judiciary & Law Committee on matters of ambulance services and emergency medical services is hereby repealed.

SECTION II. Section 1.77 is created to read:

1.77 JOINT CITY/COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMISSION.

(1) **MEMBERSHIP.** The Joint City/County Emergency Medical Services Commission (hereinafter the "EMS Commission") shall be composed of the following members:

(a) La Crosse County Board Chair or his/her designee, who shall be a County Board Supervisor;

(b) La Crosse County Board First Vice Chair or his/her designee, who shall be a County Board Supervisor;

(c) Mayor of the City of La Crosse or his/her designee, who shall be a City of La Crosse Common Council Member;

(d) City of La Crosse Common Council Member, who is appointed by the Mayor subject to Common Council approval;

(e) Citizen member from the City of La Crosse, who is appointed by the Mayor subject to Common Council approval;

- (f) Mayor of the City of Onalaska or his/her designee, who shall be a City of Onalaska Common Council Member;
- (g) The La Crosse County Unit Chair of the Wisconsin Towns Association;
- (h) Member who shall be a village president or his/her designee as determined by the villages located in La Crosse County and shall be an elected official;
- (i) Representative from and appointed by Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center;
- (j) Representative from and appointed by Franciscan Skemp Medical Center;
- (k) Physician from and appointed by Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center; and,
- (l) Physician from and appointed by Franciscan Skemp Medical Center.

Citizen members of the Commission shall not be employees or previous employees of La Crosse County, the City of La Crosse, the City of Onalaska, Franciscan Skemp, Gundersen Lutheran, or Tri-State Ambulance.

(2) VACANCIES. A vacancy on the EMS Commission is created by the death, removal, retirement, or resignation of a member or when a member ceases to be an elected official or representative of the entity that he/she was elected or designated to represent. The vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original election, designation or appointment.

(3) OFFICERS. At the first meeting of the EMS Commission and every other year thereafter, members shall elect from their number a chairperson, a vice chairperson and other officers as necessary. Vacancies in these offices shall be filled for the unexpired terms in the same manner. The chairperson shall preside at all meetings when present. In case of the absence of the chairperson for any meeting, the vice chairperson shall act as the temporary chairperson.

(4) DUTIES AND POWERS

(a) The EMS Commission shall be responsible for establishing standards and contracting for emergency medical services in La Crosse County, reviewing provider performance, and reporting on performance to the county and other municipal governmental entities. Decisions which may impact budgets of county or municipal governmental entities, or current EMS system providers, must have advance approval by the appropriate agency governing board(s). At a minimum, the standards established by the EMS Commission shall be in compliance with the current performance standards achieved by the EMS system and enjoyed by the County of La Crosse, for example:

1. Physician EMS Medical Director(s) that are Board Certified by the American Board of Emergency Medicine;
2. A single set of Pre-Hospital Medical Care Protocols for 911 Response;
3. Wisconsin Administrative Code HFS 112 for Emergency Medical Service operations;

4. Closest ambulance response regardless of jurisdictional boundaries. Jurisdictional boundaries shall not limit the response of the transport providers;

5. Electronic patient care reporting for all individual patient care reports;
and,

6. A medical quality assurance program which shall be external to EMS system providers.

(b) The duties and powers of the EMS Commission shall include the exercise of powers in the following areas:

1. Personnel Standards. Develop personnel standards in the following areas:

a. State licensed EMT paramedic or National Registry in compliance with Wisconsin Administrative Code HFS 112;

b. Turnover Rate Standards.

2. Scope of Services. Develop scope of services in the following areas:

a. Response time standards for defined response zones for advanced life support services everywhere in La Crosse County consistent with industry and national standards. Response time standards for services provided in the City of La Crosse shall not exceed eight (8) minutes and zero (0) seconds for 90 percent (90%) of emergency medical responses which require a red lights and siren response as determined by the use of an Emergency Medical Dispatch program approved by the EMS Commission.

b. Plan for 24 hour, 365 day per year coverage as per Wisconsin Administrative Code HFS 112 for La Crosse County;

c. Mutual Aid Agreements, including the number of mutual aid agreements, response time requirements and activations requiring La Crosse County resources; and,

d. Response times for individuals requiring transfer to a more appropriate inpatient behavioral health unit due to inability to meet specific patient care requirements such as age, forensic care, and medpsych diagnoses.

3. Ambulance Operators. Any ambulance service provider wishing to operate an ambulance within the La Crosse County EMS System shall first be authorized by the EMS Commission before entering an ambulance into service.

4. Vehicle and Equipment Requirements. Develop vehicle and equipment requirements which include, at a minimum, standards regarding the age and status of ambulance vehicles, equipment and supplies inventory, and repair and maintenance requirements and reporting in compliance with Wisconsin Administrative Code HFS 112 and DOT Trans 309.

11/10/08

5. EMS System Communications and Standards in compliance with Wisconsin Administrative Code HFS 112.

6. Medical Director/Medical Control to be in accordance with Wisconsin Administrative HFS 112. The EMS Commission shall have the authority to approve, remove and replace the Medical Director to be utilized by the credentialed paramedics in accordance with standards promulgated by the EMS Commission.

7. Quality Assurance Program. Develop standards for quality assurance in such areas as: quality indicators, run report review process, protocol review and approval process, patient satisfaction monitoring process, patient rights and safety program.

8. Insurance Requirements. Requirements for commercial/general liability/professional liability coverage for ambulance providers.

9. Data Collection, Reporting, and Records Requirements.

a. Develop standards regarding content and frequency of routine reports in such areas as: calls, response times, clinical quality, skills proficiency, patient satisfaction, and vehicles and equipment.

b. To ensure complete transparency, ambulance providers will make all financial and operational information available to the Commission and the public. Financial and operational information includes but is not limited to personnel, vehicle, capital, equipment, operational expenses, charges for services, revenues, reimbursement rates, technology information such as GPS and computer-aided dispatch data, and response times to various communities, districts, or zones.

SECTION III. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Dated this 10 day of November, 2008.

LA CROSSE COUNTY

By: 

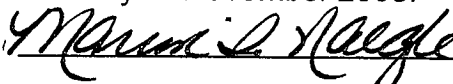
Steve Doyle, County Board Chair

By: 

Marion I. Naegle, County Clerk

STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE

I, Marion I. Naegle, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original ordinance required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 10th day of November 2008.



Marion I. Naegle, La Crosse County Clerk