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Notes from the Director's Desk

What have I been up to? The budget. Over the last month, we have been working on the capital budget as well as the monthly operational budget for all counties.

Capital is any equipment or purchase over \$1500.00. The Operation Managers and I make decisions on what equipment we need to replace or new equipment we feel we need to add. Those capital items are ranked in the order of priority. The Capital item along with cost and justification is sent on to the CMH Capital Committee. It is the Job of the CMH Capital Committees to look at all capital requests in the organization and make the decision on capital purchases for the hospital for the upcoming fiscal year. Throughout the organization, there are many needs that have to be evaluated. The purchase has to fit into the budget and then scheduled during the year for purchase. We usually receive notification in June of what capital has been approved and when it is scheduled to be purchased. Some of the items that have been requested for FY16 are: LP 15 cardiac monitors, replacement cots, and Automatic Vehicle Location system.

The operational budget encompasses salaries, benefits, supplies, ambulance maintenance, fuel, fees and service, and equipment and facilities. There are 32 + accounts and subaccounts that are budgeted.

We also look at projected number of patients transported and the revenue. All this rolls together to make up the department's budget. Both budgets are included in the hospitals budget which is presented to the hospital board for approval. Budget wise, so far this year, Polk County is 1% under, Hickory County is 4% under, and Cedar County is 2% over budget. It is important for us all to be good financial stewards especially with reimbursement decreasing; it helps us be sustainable as a department and organization. How can this be done? We must take good care of all of our equipment, bases, and other items. Only use the necessary supplies and keep trucks stocked to the proper inventory level and take good care of our equipment. Document your calls thoroughly and export charts promptly.

This stewardship should start at the beginning of your shift. As you come on duty, give a hand off report and prepare your truck for the crew coming in to relieve you. Is it clean, inside and out? Is the truck stocked according to inventory? When you use equipment, treat it like it has to last for your entire career. Do not lose equipment or leave it on scene. Communicate any equipment concerns or needed repairs and make sure you email your station manager with any needed repairs or replacements. Make sure you do your base chores. Operate the trucks safely and carefully as if they are your own. Good stewardship means taking very good care of all of our equipment, both on the truck and in the station. A fully equipped and stocked ambulance is about \$235,000.00.

Hickory County has a great tradition of taking care of their equipment and making it last. It starts at the beginning of the shift and ends and is passed on to the oncoming crew. They expect the ambulance to be well cared for, inventoried correctly, equipment in its place, clean and ready. Their equipment, ambulances and base are well cared for and they take pride in this fact. They are successful as a team by being 4% under budget because of their tradition and team work.

When I worked in the field, I enjoyed taking pride in the truck I was in during my shift. It was my office and I felt it was a reflection of me. I challenge you all to be good stewards and work as a team to reach our goal of meeting our budgets.



POLK COUNTY NEWS: Aaron Weaver

Summer Shirts: If you missed it, I sent out an email asking everyone for their sizes for summer shirts. I would like to have everyone's order (size and quantity) as soon as possible. I have already received several responses and would like to place the order as soon as possible. This will allow the embroidery business to have them finished before we need them. Remember: The approved time frame to wear the summer shirts is June 1st through August 31st.

Emails: Speaking of email, since we communicate so much by email, everyone should be checking and reading their emails frequently as you are responsible for content of emails sent to you. Not seeing the email is no excuse.

Shift Trades: I would like to thank everyone for facilitating your own shift trades. With you doing so, it really helps the managers in approving the trades, especially when you trade within the same week.

Equipment: The process of emailing broken or missing equipment is helping a lot. We have been able to take care of the equipment more efficiently and get it back in service quicker.

HealthEMS: Morgan Young

Hello all,

The Getac laptops seem to be performing well. We have only one scratch on a screen so far. We are still going through some growing pains with the latest version of HealthEMS. Two issues have been found.

1. The location of scene.
 - a. When you chose "home/residence", a critical warning appears.
 - ✓Tabbing out of the field makes it go away.
2. Patient signature.
 - a. Regardless of situations that should not require a signature, it still does.
 - b. If you click the check box beside patient signature, it should disappear. If it doesn't, give me a call.
 - ✓This has already been corrected in a newer version of HealthEMS.

In the future, we have some testing coming up of new antennas for the ambulance routers. They will be placed outside the ambulance on the roof. Hopefully reception will be improved. Be safe out there!

We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone.
---Ronald Reagan

We may not always be able to help our patients, but we can always help and support our co-workers. You do not have to be an FTO to help welcome our new employees or support them in learning the CMH way. New, fresh out of class employees who have little experience will need help in brushing up on skills and general knowledge of that "bigger picture"; where things are not always so black and white. Invest your time and experience in your co-workers and in time, it will pay back 100 fold. Even old EMS dinosaurs can learn something new from our new employees. Also, we can remind each other of our staff meetings, competencies and other educational classes. Keeping up with our ever changing service can get overwhelming at times and keeping each other informed and held accountable will help each of us stay on the same track. These are just a few of the many things we can do for each other. I challenge each of you to find something you can help another co-worker with and, in the process, create a new habit and support system.

Upcoming events:

STANDBY'S: It is going to be another busy year! Standby's for 2015 start March 28th with Go Cart Races followed by Lucas Oil events. I currently have standbys turned in for almost every weekend until November 1st. I will send out a list of standbys with each new availability schedule that will go out. Standbys are open to Fulltime, Part-time and PRN staff. Our goal is to keep our overtime down, but as those of you know, it is there if you want it once our standby's kick in.

VACATIONS: Full time and Part-time employees. You can now submit vacations in through KRONOS all the way out to October. KRONOS will be the only way I will accept your request off from now on. If you do not know how to use KRONOS for this, just ask.

New schedule will run from March 29th to May 16th. All request off need to be turned in as soon as you know that you will need off work, so I am able to send out as accurate availability list as possible. New schedule will be out March 20th.

Thank you to all that have helped cover open shifts while the flu bug came to visit, and for family emergencies that have arisen. We could not have done it without YOU!

St. Clair County/Osceola: Don Stockton

Greetings from the frozen tundra of the Northern Territories a.k.a. Osceola.

The last two weeks have been challenging with the weather and frequent furnace issues in our current location. The big news is there is actual physical activity on the remodel project to turn the garage/maintenance building into our future home!

Recently, we have gotten a lot of positive feedback from the community for the service we provide. Most notably, Andy & Ryan did an outstanding job on a patient who lost an argument with a bull.

The new ambulance should be delivered to Bolivar any time now and we can start the process of getting it in service.

Andy, Ryan and myself all celebrated birthdays in February.

Many thanks to everyone service wide that have helped us keep things running through the recent epidemic and weather issues. Hopefully, by the time the next newsletter comes out, we will have new truck and new station updates to share.

Until we meet again

Greetings from Cedar County: Tom Ryan

Well, I bet everyone is saying the same thing: Is Winter almost over? Almost! March 20th is just around the corner and yep, that's right, it will be SPRING! We are counting down the days.

Have we talked about radios? Here is a question I have: *Do you carry your radio when you respond on a call? If not, Why?* Did you know that on February 27, 2015, a GA man attacked EMS crew after stabbing his wife. What would you do if you came into a house without a radio and something like this happened? Wait. Don't tell me. I am sure I would call 9-1-1 so many times and misdial, get a busy signal or even no signal. With everything going on in the world and even our neighboring cities, we can't afford to be without it. Folk's, things change in a moment and usually without notice. So, please do you part by having your partner's back and keep a portable radio on you at all times.

Cedar County would also like to welcome Tammi Clark to staff in 2015; she has filled Rae E's spot in Stockton. The staff looks forward in working with her and learning from each other to making Cedar County a safer place to live and work.

The Cedar County Ambulance District Board meeting was not held in January due to the Weather. Since there was no meeting, we can say there has been no decision made on replacement of 712 and 710. Hopefully, we will be moving forward with this in March so we will have a truck in the station before standbys start.

Work has started on the Eldorado Springs Base to repair the hail damage. It is noisy during the day so please hang in there, it will not be long! The roof is half done and they are really "going to town" on the back side with replacing the siding and flashing around the windows.

Remember everyone: Think SPRING!!! And don't forget to "spring" forward on March 8th!

March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb.

Education/Clinical News: Theron Becker

The annual fire extinguisher training should be on your HealthStreams. I've reserved the trainer for the All Counties Staff Meeting on March 18 in Community Room 3. If you attend the staff meeting, you will be able to complete your fire extinguisher requirement for the year.

Alice found <http://www.boundtreeuniversity.com/>. Apparently, they have some free CEUs (15 hours) and a whole library of classes for \$49 if you are interested.

My goal has been to offer enough free CEUs at CMH to re-license, if you can make it to them. If you are re-licensing or considering paying money for CEUs, please contact me and I'll help you calculate your CEUs. All of our competencies, classes, and many of the Healthstreams assigned can be counted. For example, last year we offered 84 hours of classes in-house and almost 50 hours on Healthstream. Nationally registered paramedics only need 72 hours every two years. I am not wanting to discourage the use of other sources of education, but there is no need to spend money on something just for hours when you may already have them.

WELCOME Bryan Albright (Sac Osage EMT and Humansville Fire) and Pat Brown (Cox Paramedic) who have already started orientation and will be PRN with us.

Upcoming Events for March

Mar 1 st	8am-8pm	Paramedic Refresher & Transition	CMH Education Classrooms
Mar 5 th	8:30a-3:30p	Pediatric Workshop	Warren County Health Dept 101 Mockingbird Lane, Warrenton, MO
Mar 8 th	2am	Daylight Savings Time Begins	"Spring Forward" (Move clock forward 1 hour)
Mar 9 th	6:30p-9:30p	CPR Recertification	Mercy EMS Education Center, 1407 E St. Louis Street, Spfd, MO
Mar 10 th	8:30a-5p	ACLS Renewal	CMH Education Classrooms
Mar 10 th	3p-5p	Drug Trends presented by Jason Martin, Cox Health Trauma @ Polk Co Health Center**	
Mar 11 th	8:30a-12:30p	12 Lead ECG	CMH Education Classrooms
Mar 20 th		Tucker Redfern Pediatric Trauma Symposium	Hammons Heart Institute, Springfield, MO
Mar 25 th	8am – Noon	Basic Arrhythmia	CMH Education Classrooms
Mar 25 th	1pm – 4pm	ECG & Pharmacology	CMH Education Classrooms
Mar 27 th	8am – 5pm	Spring Trauma Seminar	Lake Regional Health System **
Mar 31 st	9am-5pm	CMH ITLS Refresher/Completer Class	CMH Education Classroom A & Outside

**Please register with Sandra Zanaboni at Polk County Health @ (417) 326-7250 zanabs@pha.mopublic.org

** Please register with Marcia Whitter at Lake Regional @ (573) 348-8717 mwhitter@lakeregional.com



Aaron Weaver	19 years
Tom Liberty	19 years
Tyler Slothower	3 years
Eric Childress	1 year
Travis Cramer	1 year
Emma Igo	1 year
Levi Crews	1 year

Cassandra Pruet	March 7 th
Amanda Dickover	March 8 th
Tim Shaw	March 10 th
Pat Brown	March 10 th
Shelia Wheeler	March 14 th
Victor Nail	March 15 th
Aaron Dearing	March 16 th
Lucas Weaver	March 28 th
Theron Becker	March 28 th

Pat Brown	EMT-P PRN
Bryan Albright	EMT-B PRN