



Association of Minnesota Counties

Public Safety Policy Committee

Alexandria, Minnesota

September 14-15, 2023

AMC Fall Policy Conference

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dale Anderson, Kandiyohi County
Larry Anderson, Cottonwood County
Rick Anderson, Lyon County
Ron Antony, Yellow Medicine County
Barb Becker, Todd County
Elliot Belgard, Martin County
Karla Bigham, Washington County
Marv Bodie, Carlton County
Julie Braastad, Anoka County
David DeLaHunt, Hubbard County
Bill Droste, Dakota County
David Ebinger, Clay County
Gregg Felber, Sherburne County
Linda Flanders, Goodhue County
Jared Gapinski, Benton County
Neal Gaalswyk, Cass County
Rick Gnemi, Steele County
David Hamre, Renville County
Brian Harguth, Waseca County
Jeff Jelinski, Morrison County
John Johnson, Itasca County

Dawn Kaasa, Freeborn County
Mike Kaczmarek, Wright County
Bruce Lawrence, Pennington County
Mitch Lentz, Fillmore County
Mary Jo McGuire, Ramsey County
Charlie Meyer, Douglas County
Bill Miller, Watonwan County
Kurt Mortenson, Otter Tail County
John Mueller, Mower County
Ron Noon, Wadena County
Laurel Podulke-Smith, Olmsted County
John Roper, Faribault County
Dallas Roskamp, Pipestone County
Steve Schmitt, Meeker County
Jack Swanson, Roseau County
Stacy Tufto, Lac qui Parle County
Dwight Walvatne, Grant County
Laurie Westerland, Aitkin County
Paul Wildman, Pope County
Scott Windschitl, Brown County
Donny Wohlers, Stevens County

GUESTS PRESENT:

Midge Christianson, MACCAC
Becky Bales Cramlet, Stearns County
Cate Duin, Ramsey County
Melissa Finnegan, Ramsey County
Tim Kalina, Douglas County
Tami Jo Lieberg, Kandiyohi County

Adam McIntyre, Koochiching County
Carli Stark, AMC
Vance Stuehrenberg, Blue Earth County
Patrick Waletzko, Otter Tail County
Nathan Zacharias, AMC

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Meeker County Commissioner Steve Schmitt called the Public Safety Policy Committee to order at 1 p.m. on September 14, 2023, and welcomed members. Members said the pledge of allegiance and participated in introductions.

II. Approval of Minutes

Roseau County Commissioner Jack Swanson made a motion to approve the February 2023 meeting minutes and the motion was seconded by Otter Tail County Commissioner Kurt Mortenson. Motion carried.

III. Emergency Ambulance Services Report

David Kirchner from the Office of the Legislative Auditor presented highlights from the 2022 Emergency Ambulance Services report. He noted that there are differences in local control of primary service area licenses throughout the state. Among other key recommendations presented, the report recommends increase opportunity for local government input and changes to oversight of the Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board.

IV. The State of 911 – 2023

Director Dana Wahlberg and Kent Wilkening from the Emergency Communication Networks division of the Department of Public Safety presented on the state of 911 in Minnesota. They discussed the 911/988 working group, FCC rules related to cost recovery, an RFP process for NextGen 911 grant funding, and a legislative effort to update Chapter 403 of the Minnesota Statutes.

V. Violent Crime Response and Strategies: A Discussion with DPS and DOC Commissioners

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Bob Jacobson and Department of Corrections Commissioner Paul Schnell gave an overview of crime statistics statewide and talked about a \$70 million grant program enacted during the last legislative session. Committee members asked for more information on a provision in the education bill that changes use of force provisions for school resource officers and also discussed youth crime and intervention.

VI. Committee Recessed

Carlton County Commissioner Marv Bodie made a motion to recess the committee until September 15, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. and the motion was seconded by Clay County Commissioner David Ebinger. Motion carried.

VII. Committee Reconvened

Chair Steve Schmitt reconvened the committee on September 15, 2023, at 8:30 a.m.

VIII. MN Low-Level Radar Gaps – We Wish This Wasn't a Local County Issue

Kandiyohi County Deputy Emergency Manager (EM) Ace Bonnema, Beltrami County EM Director Chris Muller, Grant County EM Director Tina Lindquist, and Consulting Meteorologist/EM Greg Gust, presented on behalf of the Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers. The panelists provided information on current gaps in weather radar in Minnesota. Seventy-two out of eighty-seven counties have a gap in radar readings which can affect response and warning time for natural disasters. The presenters also talked about a private/public partnership pilot to address some of the gaps.

IX. 2023 Legislative Session Recap and Policy Process

AMC Policy Analyst, Carli Stark, gave a summary of key priority issues passed during the 2023 Legislative session including community supervision funding, ARMER funding, and juvenile justice intervention funding. The committee discussed recent changes to the use of force by school resource officers and determined that AMC should stay involved in meetings and remain in communication with the Minnesota Sheriff's Association.

Carli gave an overview of the AMC policy setting process and informed the committee that there will be opportunities for feedback about the process. AMC set a strategic priority to assess and improve the policy process and ensure opportunities for meaningful engagement of membership.

X. Commissioner Forum and Ideas Exchange

Hennepin County Commissioner Jeff Lunde discussed a newly formed workgroup studying post-conviction youth intervention. There are representatives from many counties throughout the state, mostly regional hubs. The workgroup will focus on gaps in the continuum of care for youth in the criminal justice system.

Clay County Commissioner David Ebinger provided a county perspective on the effort by the Emergency Communication Networks to change Chapter 403. He stated the need for an increase in the 911 telecommunications fee and differences of opinion between stakeholders related to the changes to Chapter 403 as it relates to cost recovery for providers.

XI. 2024 Public Safety Priorities

Carli Stark provided an overview of the 2023 policy priorities and the guidelines for priority setting. Committee members discussed issues related to juvenile placements and mental health services and had a robust discussion about first responders, recruitment and retention of employees, and emergency telecommunications.

After discussion, Roseau County Commissioner Jack Swanson moved that the committee forward the following priorities for the 2024 legislative session and asked staff to work with Chair Schmitt and the Policy Coordinating Committee to refine the language before district meetings in October:

- AMC supports sustainable, ongoing state funding to update and maintain Minnesota's emergency response systems including Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER), Next Generation 9-1-1, Public Alert System (IPAWS), and others that are necessary to promote interoperability of emergency response communications.
- AMC supports full funding of the Community Corrections Act formula and further refinement of the policy language enacted in 2023.
- AMC urges the legislature to address gaps in the mental health continuum of care for youth in the justice system including increased early youth intervention, long term treatment and housing, and severe mental illness supports.
- AMC supports creating a stable source of ongoing revenue to replace and/or supplement declining fine revenue for Regional EMS Boards.

Morrison County Commissioner Jeff Jelinski seconded, and the motion carried.

XII. Adjourn

Cass County Commissioner Neal Gaalswyk made a motion to adjourn at 11:30 a.m. and the motion was seconded Pope County Commissioner Paul Wildman. Motion carried.