

**First Friday Forum: “It’s 11 PM ... Do You Know Where The Next Emergency Is”
Emergency Medical Services Then and Now**

Friday, March 2, 2012 – 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Hope Network Education Center
775 36th Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49548

Coffee and networking starts at 8:00 a.m.

In 1973 many ambulance services were provided by inadequately trained volunteers often riding in hearses that did double duty. This was the case especially in our rural areas. There was little radio communication and little coordination with emergency room personnel. Some hospital emergency rooms were poorly equipped, and some were even locked at night! Clearly improvements were needed.

In 1973, the Alliance for Health established the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee (EMSAC) to examine our emergency medical services and to help create a system of high quality pre-hospital care. The late Fred Meijer chaired this committee. EMSAC’s work led to the major improvements. Almost overnight, the West Michigan emergency medical services became pacesetters in the nation. The EMS plan was the roadmap for this change, enabling localities and local services to seek and receive millions in grants to pay for improvements.

Where are we today? Are we still national leaders? How do we compare to other systems? How do we measure our system and how do we measure up? What remains? Do we have more needs for vehicles? ...for training programs? ...for equipment? ...for communications? Are our laws concerning emergency services and pre-hospital care adequate?

Come to the First Friday Forum to get a clear assessment of our emergency services.

Presenters:

Mark Meijer, President, Life EMS Ambulance
Kraig Dodge, Vice President Resource Delivery, Life EMS Ambulance
Chad Crook, Paramedic Field Supervisor, Life EMS Ambulance

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