

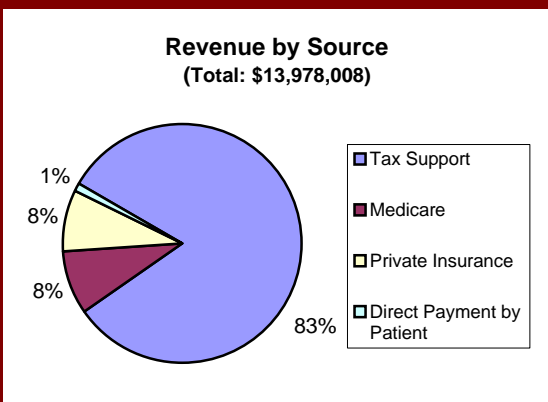
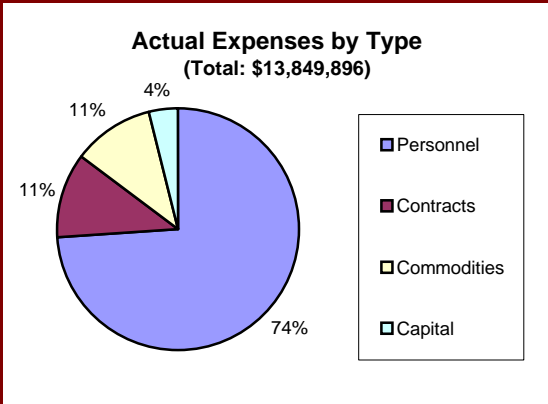
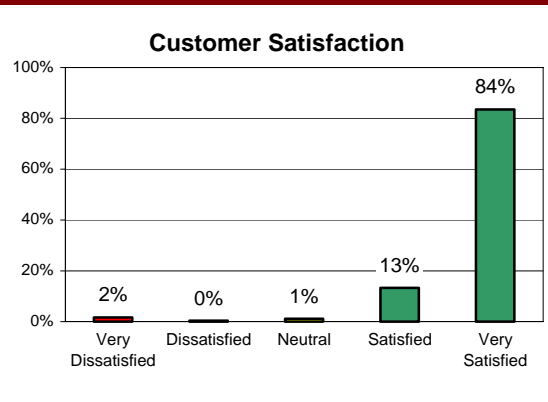
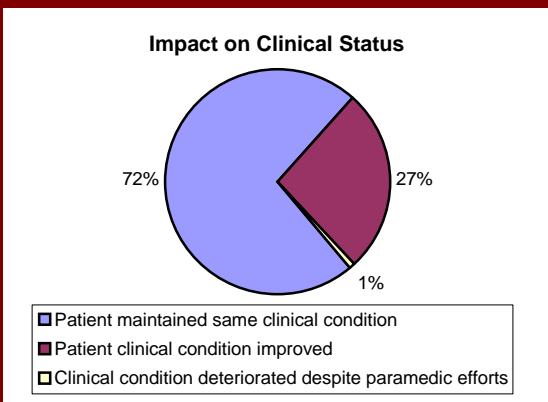
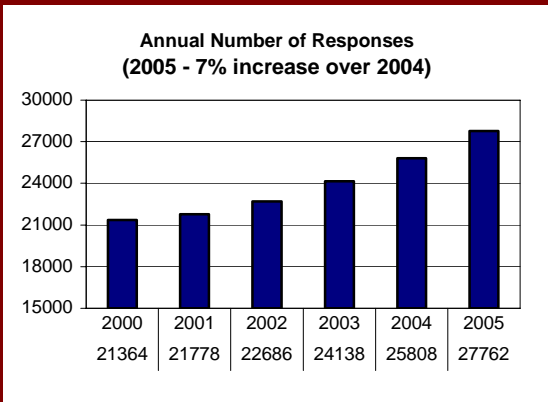
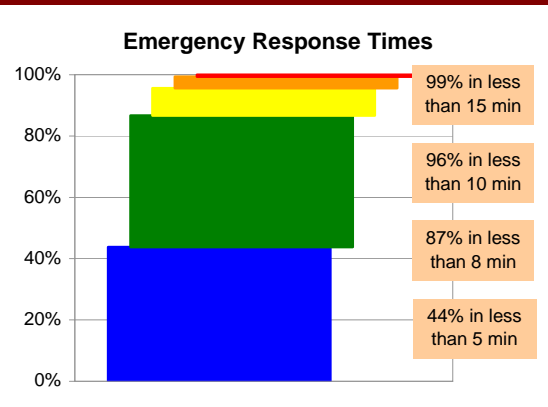
# Johnson County MED-ACT

*Celebrating 30 Years of Service*



**2005**

**Annual Report**



## Introduction

Since 1975, Johnson County Med-Act has taken pride in its delivery of prehospital emergency medical care within Johnson County, Kansas. Med-Act, a department of Johnson County government, is a progressive organization that achieves a high level of performance by keeping sharply focused on the needs of its patients. For the past thirty years Med-Act has worked towards achieving its goals by embracing change while maintaining a strong commitment to its mission and values. Med-Act will continue to strive for excellence in caring for the citizens and visitors of Johnson County for the next thirty years and beyond.

## Message from the Chief

It is my pleasure to share this annual report with you as a marker to another successful year at Med-Act. You will find many positive happenings described in this report. The people of Med-Act continue to strive tirelessly and without exception to "do the right thing for the right reason". Our patients are the beneficiaries of this practice. We continue to expand our services by deploying our 14<sup>th</sup> ambulance in Leawood bringing our total station locations to 18. We also initiated our Critical Care Transport Team with the help of our partners at the Overland Park Fire Department. Our Community Education Division assisted in the placement of almost 100 new AEDs throughout the community. There are now almost 400 AEDs dispersed in the community. All citizens are only a few minutes away from these life saving devices.

There were many highlights in 2005. However, I regret to share with you that the whole year was impacted by the atmosphere that resulted when a significant portion of our workforce decided to challenge our pay methods. They sued the County in federal court for failure to properly calculate overtime pay. The matter was settled late in the year and all non-exempt field personnel were paid overtime for the last 2 years. The most difficult part of the situation was the management's inability to communicate with the workforce about the pay issue during the year. This was contrary to our natural way of doing things, so it put a strain on the employer/employee relationship.

Our experienced workforce celebrated one 30-year employees and another 25-year employee. This is even more remarkable since we celebrated the Med-Act 30 year anniversary in March of 2005. We also initiated our first ever Med-Act Cadet Program. Four EMTs were hired late in the year. With our support they will begin paramedic training at the Johnson County Community College in January. This program promises to be the primary method for bringing new paramedics into our department.

## Operations Division Highlights

The Operations Division is responsible for the direct delivery of emergency medical care to the sick and injured. This is achieved by a network of dedicated EMS professionals committed to delivering care in the best possible way. County ambulances are staffed with crews of two paramedics, a design that maximizes the skill level and expertise available on every call. Paramedic Advanced Response (PAR) units provide early advanced life support (ALS) to remote areas of Johnson County until an ambulance arrives. Battalion Chiefs oversee a wide variety of field activities, support their crews and facilitate high quality care. Deputy Chief Dennis P. Sosna leads the division.

### Significant accomplishments in 2005 included:

- Assisted our partners at the Overland Park Fire Department in the process of training OPFD EMS Lieutenants. Sharing the responsibility of crew leadership between the two organizations promotes the vision of a truly cooperative entity.
- Placing an ambulance in the Leawood Fire Department at Mission Road and West 127<sup>th</sup> Street. This replaced the LFD basic life support ambulance formerly responding from that location, improving service by offering early ALS care and reducing response times in the area.
- In December we welcomed the first class of EMS Cadets. These four individuals will work for Med-Act on a part time basis while attending paramedic school at Johnson County Community College, later joining the rest of Med-Act paramedics on the streets of Johnson County.

## Special Operations Division Highlights

Over the last decade, nontraditional EMS operations have increasingly become a mainstay of the services offered by Johnson County Med-Act. Response and training involving hazardous materials, disaster preparedness, tactical medical operations, emergency operations and command, and bicycle-based EMS are all managed by members of Med-Act's Special Operations Division, under the supervision of Division Chief Brad Mason.

- Special Operations Division teams handled a total of 257 incidents in 2005. The call types ranged from high risk warrant services and tornado warnings to chemical spills, critical care transfers and multiple alarm fires
- The Division has overseen the implementation of equipment procurement and training to help Med-Act prepare for weapons of mass destruction events. Through the State Homeland Security Grant Program, Med-Act was able to replace the aging Hazardous Materials Support Team unit with a new heavy-duty rescue truck, delivered in September.
- The Critical Care Transfer Team went into service on May 9, 2005. It is a cooperatively staffed program, with Med-Act and OPFD critical care paramedics providing care on units 1131 and 1143. These are the primary units handling critical care, inter-facility transfers in the County.
- A regional grant application resulted in funding for the purchase of mobile data computer equipment. In 2006 this hardware will be placed on every front line ambulance and fire apparatus in Johnson County.
- Battalion Chiefs Roger Lippert and Mike Woolery, Lieutenant Scott Hendrix, and EMT David Christenberry were deployed to assist with incident management relief efforts in the hurricane-stricken Gulf Coast of Mississippi. Each completed a two-week stint performing various leadership roles.

## Education Division Highlights

Med-Act challenges its employees to improve their medical knowledge and EMS skills every day. This process is continuous, and is facilitated by the Division of Education and Development. The Assistant Chief of Education and Development, and four Battalion Chiefs of Training are responsible for developing and providing education, training, and clinical competency programs for Med-Act and other Johnson County EMS providers. These occur in a wide variety of settings—from classrooms to operating rooms and everywhere between.

Med-Act also provides continuing medical education courses for affiliated first response EMS agencies. These courses focus on team development and use realistic, skills-based scenarios, allowing EMTs and Paramedics the chance train in situations similar to what they face every day in the field. Additionally, Advanced Life Support programs are provided for physicians, hospital personnel and specialty medical care staff in the greater Kansas City community.

### 2005 Accomplishments:

- Provided over 450 continuing education hours
- Assisted in the development of six new paramedics
- Established a shadow program for paramedics to learn from physicians in various settings
- Participated in efforts for test design and consultation for the Kansas Board of EMS
- Worked with JCCC personnel in the development of three KS Training Officer workshops
- BCT Rob Jones appointed as adjunct faculty for the NAEMS Educators workshops

The Education and Development Division is a professionally motivated group that sees value in both formal education and participation in influential EMS organizations. The entire division has earned their Bachelors Degree, three have their Masters, and one is pursuing his PhD. Several Education Division personnel participate in prominent national level organizations including the American Heart Association, National Association of EMTs, and the Committee on Accreditation of Education Programs for EMS, all of which are aligned with the EMS Agenda for the Future.

## Community Education

The Community Education Division Chief Jeff Johnson, and Community Education Officers Cindy Casey and Virgil Swanson had a very productive year, coordinating over 700 public relations and community education events. It also had an active role in the placement of 98 additional Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) throughout Johnson County. There are currently 394 AEDs placed at various locations in the County.

The Division continues as an American Heart Association Community Training Center. It is responsible for the quality assurance and oversight of more than 30 CPR training sites, and the training of approximately 350 CPR instructors.

Med-Act hosted its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, with more than 300 personnel and alumni in attendance. The event was made possible due to the dedication of a few field personnel, Community Education staff, and gracious donations from area hospitals and physicians. Special guests BOCC Chairman Annabeth Surbaugh and County Manager Mike Press shared in the celebration. Several cardiac arrest survivors were also in attendance to voice their appreciation of current and former Med-Act paramedics.

In order to educate the public and demonstrate the effectiveness of the Johnson County Trauma Plan, the Med-Act Community Education staff coordinated a multi-agency exhibition during "EMS Week." A WDAF Fox 4 News reporter tested the trauma plan firsthand, by acting as the injured driver of a vehicle that had rolled several times. It proved to be a successful demonstration of the system's capabilities, emphasizing the goals of a ten minute scene time and sixty minute time to surgery, both being markers that influence a trauma patient's outcome.

*Johnson County Med-Act  
"We're here for life!"*

**Mission Statement**

To provide and assure the highest level of emergency medical services in an effective, caring and professional manner.

**Value Statements**

We demonstrate empathy and compassion to others.

We treat others with understanding, dignity and respect.

We value and care for all people equally.

We promote individual, family and community well being.

We do the right things for the right reasons.

We uphold individual and department integrity and responsibility.

We take pride in our achievements and accomplishments.

We promote and contribute to EMS professionalism.

*Years of Service Awards*



*The stars on the uniform of Med-Act employees represent more than simple decoration; each star represents five years of Med-Act service. It is with great pride that Johnson County Med-Act salutes the service of all its employees and brings special attention to those who earned an additional star in 2005.*

**Five Years of Service Award**

Jim McFall, Cindy Casey, Paramedics Jeffery Boss, Malcolm Brown, Michael Buckhouse, Mark Millham, Heath Oustad, John Perryman, Daren Pfeifer and Lee Wafford, Chief Ted McFarlane

**Ten Years of Service Award**

Paramedic Nicole Allen, Division Chief Ross Kurz

**Fifteen Years of Service Award**

Lieutenants Tony Rivotto and Greg Bergman, Paramedic Kyle Frankland

**Twenty Years of Service Award**

Support Services EMT David Christenberry

**25 Years of Service**



Lt. John Bristow

**25 Years of Service**



Lt. Annette Gaston

**30 Years of Service**



BC Mike Davis



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