

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****November 1, 2016**

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SUBJECT: BIRTHING CENTERS/POP UP EMERGENCY ROOMS

The purpose of this Informal Report is to provide City Council with an overview of Fire Department & MedStar response calls to birthing centers and Freestanding Emergency Medical Care Facilities (i.e., “pop-up ER’s”). Birthing centers are licensed and inspected by the State through the Department of Health Services. This agency develops rules that establish minimum standards for Birthing Center licensing procedures; for granting, denying, suspending, and revoking a license; for licensing fees; for operation; and for clinical standards. For emergencies, the Department of Health Services requires that birthing centers:

1. Provide emergency services to clients when a critical situation develops at the center
2. Have an emergency call system for use when there is a critical situation
3. Have personnel trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to be available whenever there is a client in labor or during acute postpartum period
4. Have Emergency equipment and emergency medications as follows:
 - a. Oxygen
 - b. Newborn manual breathing bags
 - c. Suction equipment for newborns
 - d. A neutral thermal environment for resuscitation
 - e. Other medications and equipment as approved by the clinical director

As of September 12, 2016, there were three regulated birthing centers within the City of Fort Worth according to the Texas Department of Health Services. These facilities include:

1. Beautiful Beginnings Midwifery Center for Birth & Women’s Health – 1614 Mistletoe Boulevard
2. Fort Worth Birthing & Wellness – 622 Hemphill Street
3. Origins Birth and Wellness – 10345 Alta Vista Road

Since September 1, 2015, there were a total of 12 emergency calls between the three birthing centers in Fort Worth. A breakdown along with dates are listed below:

1. Beautiful Beginnings Midwifery Center for Birth & Women’s Health – 1614 Mistletoe Blvd (3)
 - 9/18/2015 (Provided first aid and patient transported by MedStar)
 - 12/3/2015 (Unlocked car with child inside)
 - 6/30/2016 (Provided first aid – oxygen therapy – and patient transported by MedStar)

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2. Fort Worth Birthing & Wellness – 622 Hemphill St (3)
 - 11/28/2015 (Assisted MedStar)
 - 8/15/2016 (Assisted MedStar)
 - 9/2/2016 (Assisted MedStar)

3. Origins Birth and Wellness – 10345 Alta Vista Rd (6)
 - 3/12/2016 (Patient refused treatment)
 - 3/29/2016 (Provided first aid – bleeding control – and patient transported by MedStar)
 - 6/6/2016 (Provided first aid – oxygen therapy – and patient transported by MedStar)
 - 6/12/2016 (Dispatched but cancelled while in route by requesting caller)
 - 9/3/2016 (Patient refused treatment)
 - 9/15/2016 (Assisted Medstar and patient was transported)

The opening of Freestanding Emergency Medical Care Facilities (i.e., “pop-up ER’s”) have grown in popularity in recent years. According to the Texas Department of Health Services, a freestanding emergency medical care facility is:

“A facility that is structurally separate and distinct from a hospital, and which receives an individual and provides emergency care. Emergency care is defined as health care services provided in a freestanding emergency medical care facility to evaluate and stabilize a medical condition of a recent onset and severity, including severe pain, psychiatric disturbances, or symptoms of substance abuse, that would lead a prudent layperson possessing an average knowledge of medicine and health to believe that the person's condition, sickness, or injury is of such a nature that failure to get immediate medical care could result in placing the person's health in serious jeopardy, serious impairment to bodily functions, serious dysfunction of a bodily organ or part, serious disfigurement, or in the case of a pregnant woman, serious jeopardy to the health of the woman or fetus.”

The Texas Department of Health Services develops rules that establish minimum standards for licensing procedures; for granting, denying, suspending, and revoking a license; for licensing fees; for operation; and for requirements concerning design and construction. There are 9 Freestanding Emergency Medical Care Facilities within Fort Worth, and since October 1, 2014, there were a total of 35 calls in which Fort Worth Fire Department responded and 72 calls which resulted in a MedStar response. Of the MedStar responses:

- 3 were non-emergency, inter-facility ambulance requests
- 17 were 9-1-1 emergency requests
- 52 were emergency, inter-facility ambulance requests direct to MedStar

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A breakdown of the number of emergency calls by location, Fort Worth Fire Department response volume, and MedStar response volume is listed below:

1. Texas Health Emergency Room - 5401 Basswood Blvd (Fire = 0; MedStar = 10)
2. Texas Health Emergency Room - 2710 Western Center Blvd (Fire = 6; MedStar = 17)
 - 12/16/2014 (Motor vehicle accident with no injuries; MedStar not requested)
 - 1/17/2015 (Assist MedStar)
 - 4/9/2015 (Dispatched but cancelled while in route)
 - 6/28/2015 (Assist MedStar)
 - 11/7/2015 (Dispatched but cancelled while in route)
 - 11/27/2015 (Dispatched but cancelled while in route)
3. Texas Health Emergency Room - 4551 Western Center Blvd (Fire = 5; MedStar = 6)
 - 1/3/2016 (Assist MedStar)
 - 2/15/2016 (Dispatched but cancelled while in route)
 - 2/15/2016 (Assist MedStar)
 - 7/15/2016 (EMS Call for cardiac/respiratory arrest)
 - 9/20/2016 (Assist MedStar)
4. Clinic 21 of Fort Worth - 5450 Clearfork Main Street (Fire = 6; MedStar = 9)
 - 1/8/2015 (Commercial automatic alarm; no fire)
 - 9/16/2015 (EMS Call for pregnancy)
 - 6/13/2016 (Assist MedStar)
 - 8/26/2016 (Commercial alarm malfunction)
 - 8/26/2016 (Commercial alarm malfunction)
 - 8/26/2016 (Commercial alarm malfunction)
5. Complete Care Camp Bowie - 6006 Camp Bowie Blvd (Fire = 7; MedStar = 6)
 - 11/1/2014 (Assist MedStar)
 - 12/27/2014 (Dispatched but cancelled while in route)
 - 6/8/2015 (Dispatched but cancelled while in route)
 - 7/15/2015 (Assist MedStar)
 - 10/19/2015 (Commercial alarm malfunction)
 - 5/18/2016 (Dispatched but cancelled while in route)
 - 6/5/2016 (Assist MedStar)

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- 10/2/2014 (Assist MedStar)
- 11/28/2015 (Motor vehicle accident with no injuries)

7. Lumin ER Camp Bowie - 4520 Camp Bowie Blvd (Fire = 7; MedStar = 1)

- 3/31/2016 (Assist MedStar)
- 7/20/2016 (Commercial automatic alarm; no fire)
- 7/22/2016 (Commercial alarm malfunction)
- 7/29/2016 (Commercial alarm malfunction)
- 8/5/2016 (Commercial alarm malfunction)
- 8/8/2016 (Commercial alarm malfunction)
- 8/30/2016 (Commercial automatic alarm; no incident found)

8. The Emergency Center at West 7th - 1101 University Drive (Fire = 1)

- 4/20/2016 (Dispatched but cancelled while in route)

9. Excel ER Keller - 4561 Heritage Trace Parkway (Fire = 1; MedStar = 7)

- 8/7/2016 (Assist MedStar)

MedStar is currently collaboratively working with the various Free Standing ERs, the Office of the Medical Director (OMD), Emergency Physicians Advisory Board (EPAB), the State EMS Director, the Governor's Emergency Trauma Advisory Board and the Department of Professional Licensure and the on a uniform protocol set for handling future calls at these facilities.

Should you require additional information, please contact Chief Rudy Jackson at 817-392-6801, or MedStar Executive Director Doug Hooten at 817-632-0109.

David Cooke
City Manager