

# Commissioners approve 'Three Minutes to Defibrillation in Rural America'

By REBECCA CONGLETON  
farcbecca@sbcglobal.net

Executive Director of 'Three Minutes to Defibrillation in Rural America', Bryan Walker, of Fountain County, has been working for about five years to develop a systematic

approach to providing immediate, life-saving help to rural residents who go into cardiac arrest.

Walker's plan is to have an automated external defibrillator (AED) placed with a trained "fast responder" in every three-mile square of Fountain County. Walker

said this would allow these volunteers to provide a life-saving service to rural individuals who might otherwise wait up to 20 minutes for emergency medical services to arrive. Walker reported that the chance of survival decreases by 10 percent for every minute a patient in cardiac arrest goes without emergency intervention.

Breaking new ground, Walker has faced a good amount of challenge and opposition as he seeks grant funds to purchase the AED devices and provide liability insurance for the volunteers.

He addressed the commissioners on Monday evening, asking their approval of an ordinance which basically recognizes 'Three Minutes to Defibrillation' as the county's 'fast responder' volunteer service provider. The ordinance protects the county from liability, similar to the Good Samaritan Law. Walker was instrumental in creating and passing state legislation, which made such liability protection possible, with the help of Representative Dale Grubb.

Walker was commended

for his hard work and vision. The commissioners unanimously approved the ordinance. Walker will now continue his efforts to secure grant funds.

In other agenda business, the commissioners approved the monthly claims with a 2-1 vote. Terry Ellingwood opposed the motion to approve all of the claims, due to his objection to two claims associated with a change in the medical director for the EMS department, which was approved at a previous meeting when he was absent.

Ellingwood also voted in opposition to a grant sought by the health department, offered through the State, which would provide a computer, software and credentialing for expanded billing capabilities, including Medicaid and Medicare for immunizations. The grant will come at no financial cost to the county. It was approved 2-1.

The commissioners signed off on a few other end-of-year items, including a contract with Quality Correctional Care, which

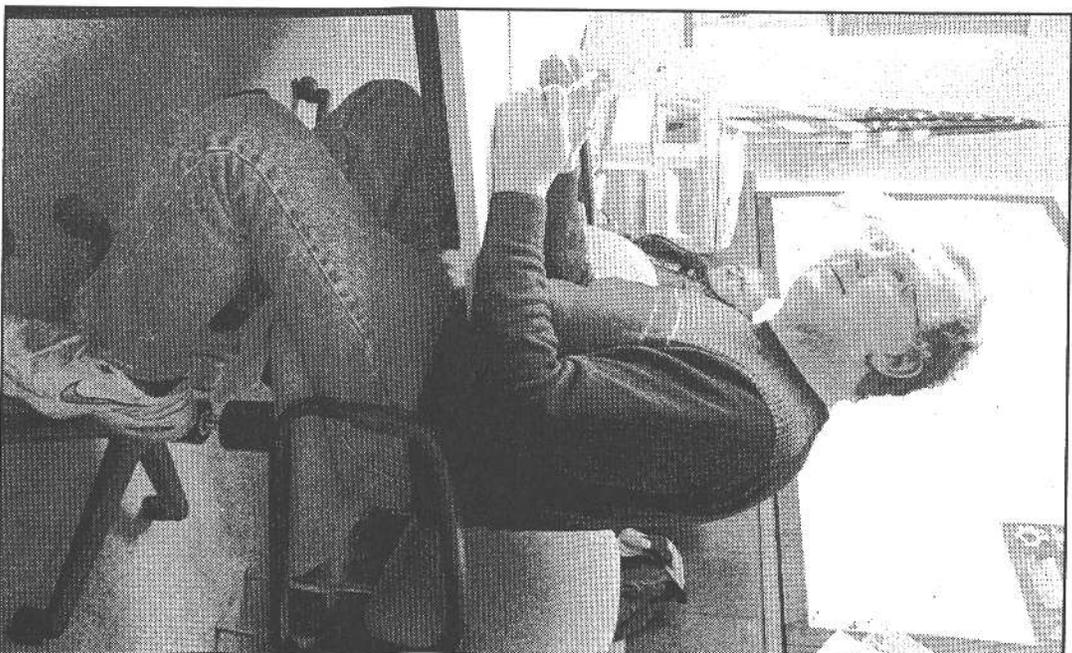


Photo by Rebecca Congleton  
**Bryan Walker discusses his plan with the commissioners at their meeting last Monday.**

was amended to reflect the board's stipulation that it be for one year without automatic renewal. They also signed paperwork solidifying their agreement with Proliance Energy for natural A special meeting and walk-through will be held at the new Ambulance Services building, near Veedersburg, on Friday, Dec. 28, at 10 a.m. The meeting will also include a ribbon cutting ceremony