

MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the March 12, 2014 meeting held at St. Joseph Hospital.

Present:

Doug Boileau, EMT-P	Arcata-Mad River Ambulance
Jaison Chand, EMT-P	City Ambulance
Kayce Hurd, EMP-P	City Ambulance
Tim Howard, Sr. Medical OA	DHHS--Public Health Branch
Donald Baird, MD	DHHS--Public Health Branch
Jet DeKruse, RN	DHHS--Mental Health Branch
Ron Sandler, EMT-P	Del Norte Ambulance
Charles Tweed, EMT-P	Del Norte Ambulance
Tim Citro, EMT-P	Humboldt Bay Fire
Angel Kellar, RN	Jerold Phelps Community Hospital
Steve Engle	Mad River Community Hospital
Larry Karsteadt	North Coast EMS
Ken Stiver, MD	North Coast EMS
Louis Bruhnke, EMT-P	North Coast EMS
Stayce Curry	North Coast EMS
John Sellers, RN	Redwood Memorial Hospital
Lori O'Shaughnessy, RN	St. Joseph Hospital
Tracy Conner, RN	St. Joseph Hospital

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Per Larry: Under EMS Commission Report—Public Safety regulations are out for pre-public comment.

Per Kayce: Under the MCI Channel Test—The issue is not that Jerold Phelps could not hear the test; they were not able to talk during the test, unless they were on the Garberville dispatch. Otherwise, minutes for 01/08/13 were approved.

2. OLD BUSINESS

Med Net System Update—Wayne Shaw, RWS

Wayne was not present. Per Larry: RWS finished with all of City Ambulance's radios Sunday. All hospital and mountaintop repeaters have been narrow banded. Wayne is still addressing some issues Kayce brought to him. Per Doug: Arcata Ambulance's VHF in-vehicle repeaters are in place. They have not had a chance to use them yet. Per Kayce: RWS will begin installing the repeaters on City Ambulance's vehicles after next Sunday.

MCI Channel Test

Per Kayce: Phelps did not answer the test, because they used the Pratt channel and could not talk on the channel. Everyone else responded. Per Louis: He and Doug discussed the MCI channel in context of disaster planning. He would like to have further discussions.

Mental Health/EMS & 5150 Handbook Update

Stayce attended Lake County's SB 82 meeting. Lake received a triage grant for the remaining fiscal year and next year, but has not yet gotten the CHFFA grant. Sutter Lakeside is considering tele-behavioral health and secluded rooms for their mental health patients, as well as combative safety training for fire, ER, and ambulance personnel. There was a discussion on the Lake County using St. Helena Psych and North Valley Behavioral Health for 5150 transfers. Transfers went well if beds were available. Stayce will attend the bi-annual Lake County Behavioral Health Collaborative meeting on 03/31/14. She has completed all data collection for the 5150 guidebooks. She provided statistical data to a meeting between Del Norte Mental Health and Sutter Coast held on 03/10/14 on the decline of beds throughout the state, which she discussed at November's MAC meeting. She was also invited to attend

the next 2013 Community Health Needs Assessment meeting in April. MediCal for in-patient detox is eventually going to be covered by Aurora Behavioral Healthcare of Santa Rosa's facility. Stayce attended Humboldt County's CIT training, which was valuable, but not well attended. She created a "tip sheet" from the CIT manual on how to write a good 5150 report, which she distributed. Per Jet: Mental Health is still interviewing for Director of Nurses. Mental Health did not get a grant for a mobile crisis unit. They are investigating other options for creating a mobile crisis unit (she believes there will be more funding opportunities in the future). Mental Health is being audited this week.

North Coast Paramedic Program Update

Per Doug: There are currently thirty-two students in the program. The didactic ends in mid-May. Some students are finishing clinical rotations, but some are just starting them. Doug has received back most field internship contracts, but is still waiting on some out-of-area locations. He and College of the Redwoods are attempting to modify how field internships are conducted. The current policies make it difficult to track attendance and grading. A new proposal is to divide the internship class into two different semesters with variable units in each semester with a total of nine. He will present the proposal to the Curriculum Committee on 03/14/14. CR's Dean is interested in conducting the course annually, but no decision has been made. CR is currently experiencing a student shortage; having an annual Paramedic Program may help bring more students to the college. Doug is planning an FTO class and asked other ambulance providers how many FTO-eligible employees they have. Per Charles: Only one is qualified at Del Norte. Per Jaison: City Ambulance has two or three.

Image Trend Update

Per Louis: All EMS providers in Humboldt County, except Hoopa are using Image Trend to an extent. Per Charles: Del Norte Ambulance is now using it, but not yet exclusively. They are having a conference tomorrow with Mark Roberts, ICEMA technical advisor, to address some issues specific to them. The State EMS sent a letter to LEMSAs addressing their concerns on the legalities of sharing data through Image Trend—LEMSAs are not covered under the rules of HIPPA, so there is no legal issue of hospitals and LEMSAs sharing data. Per Ron: Are there legal issues with sharing data with Image Trend as a company (are they selling the data)? Per Louis: The State EMS is responsible for this legal level, not local EMS providers. Per Kayce: Is there a timeline for hospital dashboards? Louis is currently focusing on the few providers who are not using Image Trend yet, rather than the dashboards. Jay Myhre is helping him implement Image Trend. Per Charles: How are others writing reports for Image Trend? Per Doug: Arcata Ambulance is writing them online using the base computers. He wants to buy and use tablets, but they must be Windows-based and multi-functional. Per Kayce: City Ambulance will implement mobile devices from Garberville, and probably Fortuna, by the end of the year, and everywhere else will use base computers. Their goal is to get reports out faster. They currently have access to computers at St. Joseph Hospital and will get access at Redwood Memorial. Jerold Phelps is setting up a backup computer for their future mobile devices. Per Charles: They have access to only one desktop computer at Sutter Coast and have asked for a second. Per Kayce: City Ambulance faced a similar problem with Phelps, so they provided Phelps with a second computer City Ambulance will have access to. There was further discussion on slow printing times, long pull-down menu lists, the use of written narratives, and general navigation issues. Mark Roberts told Lewis a new version of Image Trend is in development which will be an improvement. Per Lori: Is NCEMS going to provide training on Image Trend for base hospital PCNCs? Per Louis: Jay will take the lead on training, and Mark Roberts is available to conduct webinar trainings. Lori wants access to Image Trend to retrieve PCRs. Per Louis: Mark has created one administrative ID and password for each hospital. One person will be given this login, as well as a certain permissions level, and they can then create logins for other staff. Per Doug: The NCPP has been established as a provider in the Image Trend system, so beginning next week students will be able to write their test reports in Image Trend.

Community Paramedic

Louis distributed an article on how many agencies nationwide have or are developing community paramedics. Per Tim Citro: Humboldt Bay Fire met with Allison Newman from the California Center

for Rural Policy to express their interest in community paramedics. Per Jaison: Dr. Bakker says this program is going forward.

EMT-P Policy Updates

Kayce distributed new BLS policies that did not previously exist. She has now moved to ALS policies. Communications policies need to be updated because they do not reflect new changes with MCI channel tests. Kayce wants to discuss the spinal motion and oxygen policies because they have undergone many changes. Louis will send them out in the informational mailing. Kayce has been replacing EMT-2 references in the policy book with advanced EMT. Per Kayce: In the future, they will revisit advanced EMT policies because they are not arranged in a hierarchical order. Several draft policies will be sent out for review, including: Field determination of death, Patient care cancellation/handoff, spinal motion restriction and, oxygen administration. Louis distributed a draft of the pain management policy update. There was discussion on why aspirin was not added to the EMT scope of practice, as the state has done. Louis is unsure if there is evidence that adding aspirin policy would have any benefit. Per Dr. Baird: Restricting EMTs from administering an over-the-counter drug does not make sense to him. Per Doug: Giving aspirin to a cardiac patient lowers their morbidity/mortality by 25-30%, and he believes every EMT should have aspirin in their first aid kit. Per Louis: There is going to be a push from the federal level to increase use of Narcan to combat opiate overdoses.

St. Joseph Hospital STEMI Receiving Hospital Update

Per Lori: They are close to being ready for STEMI designation. Next week Dr. O'Brien will submit a letter of intent to NCEMS. NCEMS must decide on a fee for the STEMI project, and must go through the education process with NCEMS. Per Larry: Selinda Shontz will help coordinate the designation process. Per Tim Citro: What role will non-transporting providers play in STEMI? He believes Humboldt Bay Fire has the capability to transmit 12-leads and wants to participate in the STEMI process by transmitting 12-leads. Per Larry: Recognized STEMI patients will be automatically sent directly to St. Joseph Hospital instead of on a case-by-case basis. Per Lori: St. Joseph wants to purchase an updated radio system which would complement automatic patient transmission.

3. NEW BUSINESS

MICN and FTO Class Plans

Per Larry: Vicki Gibney will teach the MICN course which will be on 04/05-/04/06/14 at the General Hospital campus. Students will receive sixteen hours of CDUs. There is a fee. Vicki is revising the MICN test for the course. A flyer for the course has been emailed to members. Per Doug: The FTO class date has not been set yet.

4. EMS Report

Per Larry: There was no quorum for last week's JPA meeting. He is hoping he can get a quorum on 03/27/14. The EMS plan will be accepted by the board. Jackie Hausman, who is responsible for the telemedicine MOUs with our local hospitals for the EMS for Children project, is leaving. There will be pediatric-specific trainings this month in Lake County and in Humboldt next month. NCEMS will distribute flyers for these trainings. Per Louis: Regarding the HPP grant, he attended a state meeting at the end of January on capabilities in order to find out what the state expects of LEMSAs. He has emphasized to the state this region's challenges in using the HPP grant to meet these capabilities. He wants counties with more resources in this region to help out the smaller counties with fewer resources. He distributed a document prepared by Tina Wood, liaison from NCEMS to Humboldt County, on integration of EMS with the Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC), which is held by Humboldt County's Public Health Officer, Dr. Baird. The integration covers seventeen functions from the state Emergency Operations Manual (EOM), which cover both EMS and MHOAC, recognizing that both need to work together. Tim Howard inquired about how new this document version was, because Pam Coen, HPP Coordinator for Public Health-Emergency Preparedness, has recently been reviewing it,

and wanted to revise some of what was in the document. He cautioned members that what they were reading may already need to be revised. Louis emphasized that it is their opinion that NCEMS should not have an operational role during a disaster. This role will fall to local ALS transport providers to ensure the functions are coordinated at the MHOAC level. Louis and Dr. Bakker recently discussed the long-term effects of global climate change on human health. The federal government is asking what they could do to support local agencies (without spending extra money) with human health effects. Louis then contacted Dr. Wendy Ring, who has researched this issue, and the Health Officers of Humboldt and Lake Counties. The main human health effect was determined to be smoke from increased wildfires. He recommended to the federal government not to decrease HPP funding so EMS can continue to have funding to work with community partners. Per Dr. Baird: Another concern is a possible increase in “exotic diseases”, such as dengue fever. Per Larry: NCEMS received comments on inter-transfer policy from Del Norte Ambulance and will review their policy to address Del Norte’s concerns.

5. EMS Commission Report

Per Jaison: The pre-public comment for the public safety regulations is over. The only change EMSA made is adding OPAs and NPAs into the scope of practice. NCEMS asked that oxygen administration also be added to the basic scope. He asked MAC members if they feel the same way. Some indicated they support this. Jaison supports adding oxygen without mandating additional training because providers are already administering it. He does not believe the state will pay for additional training hours. Per Larry: NCEMS has concerns that the state has included a lot of new subject matter in a condensed timeframe. Also NCEMS will have to approve public safety training for the first time. Per Jaison: The state’s comments indicate if a LEMSA approves an agency such as Red Cross to do the training, the State would also approve.

6. Facility Reports

Redwood Memorial Hospital—Per John: They finished the roll-out of the new Meditech computer system and are evaluating its effectiveness based on the health system regional model. They have been approved as a base hospital for Nor-Cal EMS. CMS is on site doing a validation survey and will be there for two more days.

St. Joseph Hospital—Per Lori: They are also implementing and evaluating Meditech. They have changed their physician group to Team Health and have a new Medical Director for the group. Tracy Connor is the new PCNC. STEMI designation is moving forward. Lori is researching the purchase of a new radio system that will work under STEMI designation.

City Ambulance—Per Kayce: They have been busy this year—over six hundred calls in Eureka alone every month. They put a new ambulance into service in February. They purchased four new gurneys that will be in service in the next six weeks. Two of the three new paramedics they hired are now full-time in-service and accredited. They hired four new EMTs, as well as a CR paramedic student. They have started ride alongs with their new hires, and new EMT student trainees. They are adjusting to their new schedule of three vehicles on duty twenty-four hours in Eureka. Two are sharing station 1. Adoption of Image Trend is going well.

Humboldt Bay Fire—Per Tim Citro: All five of their stations are now designated as Safe Surrender sites. They are offering their bi-monthly Continuing Education program to area medical providers. They have purchased a lot of new training material, including simulation mannequins. They have begun their five year strategic planning process.

DHHS-Mental Health—Per Jet: They are going live with NetSmart (clinic management and electronic medical records management software) in two weeks. Their bed census is higher than in the past—seven or eight used to be normal, and now twelve is a low census. Department of Mental Health has

joined with the Department of Healthcare Services, and are being pressured by DHCS to change how they operate. This is effecting local Mental Health departments, including Humboldt County.

Del Norte Ambulance—Per Ron: Their call volume is down. They have two new ambulances which will go into service soon. Charles has been working with Image Trend as well as ECORE, their personnel management system. Per Charles: Sutter Coast has a new PCNC, Tracy Murphy. They are doing more employee and community education programs. Per Ron: They are going to offer ACLS PALS and child care provider training.

DHHS-Public Health—Per Dr. Baird: They are working with the Independent Practice Association (IPA) to address the prescription addiction and mortality problem in Humboldt County. According to state data, there are over 26,000 Schedule 2/3 prescriptions per month. He believes this problem is more significant than methamphetamine and heroin addictions. Public Health and the IPA are trying to educate both local doctors and dentists on prescription abuse. From 05/20-05/22/14, Dr. Waller, an addiction specialist and pain management expert will conduct an educational training for local medical providers. Public Health is going through a national accreditation process called PHAB. Humboldt County is ahead of many other counties on accreditation. Per Tim Howard: He and Pam Coen have been using an inventory management program called ICAM to enter inventory information about all items purchased for Public Health's medical partners through the HPP grant. Now that this task is completed, they will send medical partners an inventory of what was purchased for them through the grant and verify if they still have the items and in what quantity. They also will begin entering items bought through other grants. Tim has been entering inventory purchased specifically through the 2009 H1N1 grant. Per Dr. Baird: This data will also be linked to a state database so participating agencies can identify where in California to find needed supplies and equipment. Per Tim: He and Charlene Pellatz are part of the County Continuity of Government (COG) committee that is assisting all county agencies to develop Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP) for themselves. COOPs are an agency's plan to continue critical business functions during a disruption caused by an emergency or disaster. This project is almost complete. Once all agencies turn in their COOPs, they will be submitted for approval before the Board of Supervisors and eventually put together into one county COG plan.

Mad River Hospital—Per Steve: Their pediatric telemedicine agreement with UCSF was signed. UCSF will ship the telemedicine equipment in about a month. Their new orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Alexandra Ross, will begin next week. They discovered why they were not able to receive the MCI channel test, and have corrected the problem. Steve inquired if there is a system in place where they could gain access to images done for a particular patient the day before. Their electronic system does not allow them to look at other hospital's images (St. Joseph can look at theirs). Since this community has many patients that regularly go to different hospitals (without being transferred), he thinks it would be more convenient if all hospitals had access to all patient scans, and would benefit the patient by reducing duplicate procedures. Dr. Baird will discuss this with St. Joseph's IT department.

Jerold Phelps—Per Angel: Telemedicine with U.C. Davis pediatrics is working. They have new monitors in the ER and in Acute Care. All their RNs are certified to use the new monitors. They are having an in-service this week for their new "Bear Hugger" fluid warmers. They are still working on EDAP certification.

Arcata Mad River Ambulance—Per Doug: Randy Newell has left AMRA for a position in Santa Rosa. They will hire a new paramedic to replace Randy or promote a part-time paramedic to full-time. Doug will serve as auctioneer at the annual Chamber of Commerce annual dinner this weekend.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 04/09/14 at Redwood Memorial Hospital at 9:00 a.m.