

MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the April 9, 2014 meeting held at Redwood Memorial Hospital.

Present:

Doug Boileau, EMT-P	Arcata-Mad River Ambulance
Paul Duncan, EMT-P	CAL-FIRE
Joe Gregorio, EMT	CAL-ORE Life flight
Jaison Chand, EMT-P	City Ambulance
Tim Howard, Sr. Medical OA	DHHS--Public Health Branch
Donald Baird, MD	DHHS--Public Health Branch
Ron Sandler, EMT-P	Del Norte Ambulance
Charles Tweed, EMT-P	Del Norte Ambulance
Angel Kellar, RN	Jerold Phelps Community Hospital
Patsy Barker, RN	Mad River Community Hospital
Larry Karsteadt	North Coast EMS
Ken Stiver, MD	North Coast EMS
Louis Bruhnke, EMT-P	North Coast EMS
John Sellers, RN	Redwood Memorial Hospital
Tracy Conner, RN	St. Joseph Hospital

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Per Stayce (via email): *"MediCal for in-patient detox is eventually going to be covered by Aurora Behavioral Healthcare of Santa Rosa's facility"* Should have said: *"In-patient drug detox is eventually going to be covered by MediCal at Aurora Behavioral Healthcare mental health facility at Santa Rosa."*

Per Larry: Dr. Backer's name was miss-spelled.

Per Jaison: Under EMS Commission Report, change the statement that Jaison *"does not believe the state will pay for additional training hours."* to *"does not believe the state will approve additional training hours."*

2. CHIEF TIM OLSEN

Per Doug: Tim Olsen passed away on 03/20/14. There will be a tribute and memorial service at the River Lodge Convention Center in Fortuna on 04/13/14 at 1:00. Tim was a long-time member of MAC, representing Briceland Fire and the Southern Humboldt Fire Chiefs Association. Because his death is considered a "Line of Duty" death, he will be given a full ceremonial procession, starting in Garberville. Doug distributed copies of a statement from Briceland Fire on Tim's death, and on the memorial and procession. Per Doug: Tim always had the interests of the Briceland community and Southern Humboldt area at heart and made a difference in that area. The committee observed a moment of silence.

3. OLD BUSINESS

Med Net System & MCI Channel Updates

Per Jaison: All City Ambulance radios are narrow banded except for some transit buses. Per Larry: All other radios in the county are narrow banded as far as he knows. Per Paul: In yesterday's MCI test, all confirmed except the Arcata units, who were on calls at the time, and City Ambulance #2. Louis mentioned that NCEMS did not receive notice of the results. Per Paul: NCEMS was inadvertently removed from the distribution list. Doug, Dr. Baird, Louis, and Kayce are on Paul's distribution list. Jaison and Patsy asked to be added. Louis asked for Rhiannon Potts, NCEMS, to be added. Per Patsy: Mad River did not respond to last month's test because a nurse turned off the scan button. She has since discussed this with nursing staff. Per Louis: NCEMS, City Ambulance, and Arcata Ambulance need to meet to discuss the purpose of the MCI channel, and how it may be used in the future in context with the

Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC) program, and with disaster response. Per Ron: Del Norte Ambulance is moving to the V-Tac channels on a regular basis; are others moving to those channels? Neither City Ambulance nor Arcata Ambulance is using them, although the technology is available to them.

Mental Health/EMS Update

Per Larry: Nothing new to report. Stayce is continuing to work on the 5150 guidebooks.

North Coast Paramedic Program Update

Per Doug: College of the Redwoods has decided to hold the program every year. Doug urged members to publicize the program. He wants at least thirty students at the beginning of each course. The application online at CR is changing to reflect new background check requirements, and will be available by May. Current students are finishing their clinical rotations and will then start their field internships. The internship locations range from Petaluma, Mt. Shasta, and Portland, Oregon. There are five counties in California that are “feeder counties” to the program.

Image Trend Update

Per Louis: Every provider has been initiated in the use of Image Trend, and most are now using it exclusively. NCEMS found they could increase the font size of the printouts. NCEMS sent Jay Myhre to a training to learn more about building reports in Image Trend. Napa County requested information about STEMI transfers; Louis had to access both Image Trend and the previous system to retrieve this data and found Image Trend more difficult than he assumed. However, he found the experience valuable. Hoopa is not yet writing PCRs on Image Trend, but now are communicating with Mark Roberts and are moving forward. Per Louis: The state is building a new data collecting and reporting system compatible with the national system that they want all LEMSAs to eventually use. Image Trend will be one of the first programs to use this new system. Per Louis: Hospitals and other providers will have one person authorized to create passwords for who they want to grant access to PCRs. Per Dr. Baird: How does Image Trend integrate with the Medi-Tech system? Per Louis: Currently there is no integration, but this is an objective of state EMS. Dr. Baird is concerned that these new systems have slowed down productivity and are causing staff to spend too much time on computers instead of with patients. Dr. Stiver agreed that reports are becoming too long and not as useful because different participants want different data in them. Per Louis: From the EMS prospective, the concern is conflating data after mining that data. Per Larry: NCEMS is concerned about work slowdowns and he appreciates member’s patience during the implementation.

Last Informational Mailing—Draft Policies

Per: Doug: The general review of the spinal restriction policy is favorable. Morphine was removed from the pulmonary edema policy and is now listed as a contraindication. Arcata Ambulance’s paramedics objected to this new classification. Dr. Baird does not consider morphine to be a contraindication, and finds it safer than other similar drugs. He brought an article supporting his opinion. No other members supported listed pulmonary edema as a contraindication for morphine. Louis suggested submitting these comments to Kayce, since she was working on this policy, before the NCEMS makes a final decision. Per Charles: NCEMS has not posted any info mailings to their website for awhile, and some policies have not been updated. Louis is creating a spreadsheet to track changes in the policies more easily. Rhiannon sent him updates and he is planning to update the site. NCEMS is considering hiring a contract employee to work on these updates.

MICN and FTO Class Updates

Per Larry: Three of four PCNCs took the MICN course. Per Angel: Can staff at Jerold Phelps count ride-alongs they do from their facility toward the course? Per Patsy: The course allows one medical transport but requires one ride-along with the medics to the scene of a patient. Jaison asked Angel to email Foxy Keane at City Ambulance to arrange ride-alongs. Per Doug: There was an FTO class in Lake County last month. He is teaching an FTO class on 05/08/14 from 8:30-12:30 at the Northern

California Safety Consortium. NCEMS requires participants to have been a paramedic for two years. However, if participants will become eligible in the next six months-one year, Doug recommends taking the class now since it is rarely offered. He emphasized that the FTO class is just one of the components to being FTO certified.

4. NEW BUSINESS

Addition of Aspirin to EMT-I Scope of Practice

Per Larry: NCEMS is in the process of adding aspirin to the scope of practice. Per Louis: They must create a policy with training requirements or modify the existing policy that currently only applies to paramedics.

Emergency Operations Manual Training Course Report

Larry and Doug attended the 04/03/14 training at the Public Health Community Wellness Center. Charlene Pellatz and Pam Coen, Public Health Emergency Preparedness, taught the course. Kelly Coleman, Regional Disaster Medical Health Specialist for Region II, was in attendance. Per Dr. Baird: If requesting help through the Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator in the future, be specific with requests (he is the MHOAC for Humboldt County). Per Louis: NCEMS is creating a form to assist requestors when asking for assistance. Ron is concerned that the EOM does not address re-supply issues for ambulances. Louis discussed a conference call last Wednesday with EMS regional representatives and Public Health representatives on defining next year's HPP objectives. The focus will be on medical surge. HPP funding is being reduced. Jason believes that before the EOM requests can be useful, agencies must have a better concept of operations, and have better communications between ambulances and OES for issues such as transportation. Louis is meeting with Pam Coen and Tina Wood, NCEMS Liaison to Humboldt County, to discuss the roles of the County MHOAC and NCEMS during a disaster in context with the EOM. Per Tim: Members should think of the EOM as an important tool to use during a disaster because it outlines clear roles for everyone at every level of a disaster. There may be more disaster checklists for other scenarios coming in a future revision of the EOM. On 03/31/14, Charlene and Pam also facilitated EOM training for all Public Health managers. <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/cclho/Pages/EmergencyOperationsManual.aspx> is the link to the EOM and other related forms.

Medical Ambulance Relief Extension

Per Larry: The statute was extended for another year, meaning the Super-rural will continue. Per Ron: The feds have also extended the deadline for implementing of the ICD-10 codes.

Del Norte Ambulance Strategic Planning Report

Ron, Larry, along with medical partners in Del Norte, attended a strategic planning session led by former Del Norte county resident Steve Athey, President of Healthcare Visions, Texas. Per Larry: Steve gave an excellent presentation on the state of ambulance companies in the United States and the funding challenges they face. Larry summarized the presentation.

5. EMS Report

The JPA meeting has been rescheduled for 04/24/14, 3:00pm at the NCEMS office. Larry will respond to St. Joseph's questions on STEMI designation by this afternoon. He expects to receive an official letter from St. Joseph requesting NCEMS begin the STEMI designation process. Louis sent out a state notice on saline solution shortages. The state is soon to receive saline from a company in Norway. Larry distributed information about this year's EMSAC conference being held in San Diego. Larry and Louis will attend. The California Center for Rural Policy is providing help with research on Hoopa Ambulance's transport services. Supervisor Sundberg received information on federal options Hoopa

may have, which he sent to Larry. He will forward those documents to Doug and anyone else who is interested. Hoopa Ambulance is providing services at current levels at least through their fiscal year. NCEMS's cultural liaison Nina Serbaugh has resigned. Larry hopes the position will be filled next week. Jerald Phelps has activated telemedicine services with U.C. Davis. On 04/17/14, 9:30-11:30am, Cheryl Wraa and a physician from U.C. Davis will conduct a training on pediatric assessment and trauma at Humboldt Bay Fire's classroom. On 06/27/14 at the Warfinger building there will be a full-day Continuing Education training session on EMS for Children. The cost will be \$5-10. Dan Smiley, Deputy Director of the State EMSA is celebrating his twenty-fifth year. Larry had a congratulatory card for members to sign. Larry distributed a paper by Alison Newman, California Center for Rural Policy, on Community Paramedicine in Humboldt County. Per Larry: Several influential medical organizations oppose the Community Paramedic Program. They contend there is not enough medical oversight of the program. Larry and other members do not think this is a valid argument. There is a state hearing today on this subject; EMSAC and EMSA will speak on behalf of the program, but Larry is concerned that the other organizations will have enough influence to stop the program from going forward.

6. EMS Commission Report

Per Jaison: The National Registry presented at the last Commission meeting in March. Jaison brought up the issue of the lack of testing centers in rural areas. He believes this is due to having a for-profit organization (Pearson Vue) in charge of the testing. After the meeting, several attendees expressed similar thoughts to him. This issue is on the next Commission agenda. Ron submitted a report he found online on evidence-based practices for pre-hospital emergency care. He will send the link to NCEMS.

7. Facility Reports

City Ambulance—Per Jaison: Next week is Communications Week; on 04/16/14, City Ambulance will hold a BBQ at their facility from 3:00-5:00pm in honor of its dispatchers.

Redwood Memorial Hospital—Per John: Next month they will hold an Active Shooter training. Police and fire personnel will be involved. This month, for their field care audit, they will conduct an MCI exercise with assistance from City Ambulance. Per Dr. Baird: Drs. Rosa Rangel and John Hassapis will be leaving in July. Redwood Memorial is working out problems with the new Image Trend computer system with Louis's help. They are specifically concerned with report-running. They are getting a new computer for EMS to use on site. They will celebrate EMS week next month. They are working with Pam Cassidy on using EDAP funds for pediatric care.

CAL-ORE—Per Joe: They have new Pro Pak monitors on all their ground vehicles. They are also getting new Power Strykers for their ground vehicles. They are opening a base in Weed, CA, which will be primarily for fixed wing aircraft.

Mad River Hospital—Per Patsy: Dr. Tom Taylor is stepping down in as Medical Director in June.

St. Joseph Hospital—Tracy now has access to Image Trend and can access PCRs easily. A Eureka police officer from Problem Oriented Policing will do a presentation for St. Joseph's 04/16/14 field care audit on trends in street drugs. They have not yet hired a new PCMD. In June they are switching their Oxygen sensors and monitoring devices, and new ones will no longer be compatible with EMS. Tracy is working on an interim PCR for paramedics. She will let the other nurses know the PCR form is available on-site for paramedics to fill out. Per Jaison: According to their policy a paramedic will write the interim report immediately if a patient cannot give information about themselves. He does not want paramedics to be delayed in response to another call while writing a PCR. Also paramedics have interim PCRs on their clipboards. Per Dr. Baird: There are new state regulations on 5150 releases that may affect transport issues. Patients no longer have to automatically be transported to a mental facility, such

as Semper Virens, from a hospital the next day if that patient is no longer suicidal. The hospitals and Mental Health are working on policies to comply with these new regulations.

Jerold Phelps—Per Angel: She and two other RNs took the MICN course. Their telemedicine call with Redwood Memorial went well. She now has access to the PCRs. One problem is when several PCRs are on the dashboard she cannot print out all of them. Per Louis: Image Trend may not be fully operational at the hospital. Louis suggested speaking to Kent Scown, Director of Operations about the problem. Louis asked for an email describing this problem.

DHHS-Public Health—Per Dr. Baird: Public Health is continuing to work with the Independent Practice Association (IPA) on pain medication abuse and on setting standards. On 05/22/14 Dr. Waller will present a program on pain medication standards. On 05/03/14 at the Monday Club, nurses from Redwood Memorial will present a program called the “Pain Train”, which will address pain management assessment, prescription, and co-morbid psychopathology. Per Tim: Public Health-Emergency Preparedness is bringing FAST training (Functional Assessment Service Team) to Humboldt County. During a disaster where shelters are needed, FAST trainees will assess people who have special needs and cannot be housed in regular Red Cross-run shelters. There will be FAST shelters set up near the regular shelters for those special needs cases. The course will be held on 06/10-06/11 at a conference room at HSU’s Aquatic Center in Eureka. Four state trainers will be coming to teach the course. Dan Larkin, OES, has already sent out information about the training to the Operational Area email list and Tim will send NCEMS information to forward to MAC members. Louis feels this training would be very beneficial for NCEMS liaisons to take. He asked if Dennis Louy could attend since he is in Del Norte. Per Tim: This training is not county specific, so yes.

Del Norte Ambulance—Per Ron: They are putting together their next field care audit.

CAL-FIRE—Per Paul: CalCord changes are coming. There will be tone protection on both sent and received calls. If agencies use CalCord during an incident, the call will have a private line code encoded on both send and receive. An agency will need this PL code programmed on their radios as well, or CAL-FIRE will block the call. Law enforcement agencies have been informed. Per Jaison: Is the Sheriff’s Office participating? City Ambulance primarily uses CalCord for cross-agency communication. Paul notified Dan Larkin, who said he would distribute the information. Paul emphasized this was now a state standard. Doug has not heard this news, and was in the recent CMCI exercise where Cal-Cord was used, and none of the participating agencies indicated they had heard about it either. Per Joe: REACH helicopters are now using the new standard for transmitting and receiving. Paul will ask Fred Flores to redistribute the information again county-wide. Per Paul: Regarding the county microwave, the county net is nearly completed. They are waiting for the microwave connection between their tower and the county tower. Starting 04/28/14, they will begin staffing five stations (Weott, Crescent City, Trinidad, Fortuna, and Garberville) for fire season. Next week they will begin upgrading their CAD server. If any agencies receive CAD paging, it will not work 04/14-16/14.

Arcata Mad River Ambulance—Per Doug: They will get a new ambulance in September. Doug has been working with the North Bay CMCI Workgroup for several months. They participated in the Criminal Mass Casualty Incident exercise held at Arcata Fire. The CMCI group lead by Tom Dewey, a retired HSU Police Chief, is developing policies for active shooter scenarios. The policies will help bring fire and law enforcement together as a rescue team on the scene of an active shooter. EMS personnel would not normally be placed on the scene, but kept in the “cold zone” to receive patients. Since Redwood Memorial is holding an active shooter training next month, Doug asked John to contact Tom Dewey to discuss active shooter policies. Louis would like Tina Wood to participate in the exercise since she has also been working with the CMCI group.

The meeting was adjourned in honor of Tim Olsen.

8. Next Meeting: Wednesday 05/14/14 at Mad River Community Hospital at 9:00 a.m.

