

MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the May 14, 2014 meeting held at Mad River Community Hospital.

Present:

Doug Boileau, EMT-P	Arcata-Mad River Ambulance
Kayce Hurd, EMT-P	City Ambulance
Tim Howard, Sr. Medical OA	DHHS--Public Health
Donald Baird, MD	DHHS--Public Health
Jet DeKruse, RN	DHHS--Mental Health
Ron Sandler, EMT-P	Del Norte Ambulance
Charles Tweed, EMT-P	Del Norte Ambulance
Angel Kellar, RN	Jerold Phelps Community Hospital
Steve Engle	Mad River Community Hospital
Patsy Barker, RN	Mad River Community Hospital
Larry Karsteadt	North Coast EMS
Stayce Curry, RN	North Coast EMS
Ken Stiver, MD	North Coast EMS
M.H. Moustafa, MD	St. Joseph Hospital
Tracy Conner, RN	St. Joseph Hospital
Roy Christian, RN	Sutter Coast Hospital
Tracy Murphy, RN	Sutter Coast Hospital

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Per Stayce: *“In-patient drug detox is eventually going to be covered by Medi-Cal at Aurora Behavioral Healthcare mental health facility at Santa Rosa”* should have just left off the reference to Aurora as the service will be covered by Medi-Cal at all mental health facilities.

2. OLD BUSINESS

Med Net System & MCI Channel Updates

Per Kayce: Neither Mad River nor St. Joseph Hospitals could hear the MCI channel on the Horse Mountain repeater. When Cal-Fire reset MCI, she could hear Horse Mountain but could not talk on the channel. Per Patsy: Horse is active now. Doug summarized Med Net/MCI for the benefit of the new attendees.

Mental Health/EMS Update

Stayce discussed issues related to Senate Bill 82, Lake County will begin a telebehavioral program through Cedar Sinai Hospital. Staff trained in telepsychiatry will be authorized to release Lake County's 5150 patients. If a patient is released and later does harm to themselves/others, the hospital would be liable, but the treating physician is unlikely to be held accountable. They have created an MOU which is going to Lake County's Board of Supervisors. Lake has also set up a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training and will increase communication with all their stakeholders with emphasis on programs that may be impacted by delivery of behavior health concerns. Aurora of Santa Rosa does not currently accept adults under sixty-two with Medi-Cal due to having more than a sixteen bed capacity.

Stayce discussed Senate Bill 364. This bill mostly clarified and consolidated 5150 codes. In addition to evaluating patients face to face, now facilities can include telepsychiatry. Lake County is updating several of their policies, such as who can write and lift patient holds, and adding language to their 5150 form stating the need for original signatures. SB 364 pushes for continuous evaluations. Per Jet: Humboldt County currently offers telepsychiatry for Garberville and Willow Creek (but not at Sempervirens). They did not get SB 82 grant funding to expand their telepsych program. They are developing 5150 training for anyone who writes or rescinds holds (with the exception of law enforcement). Per Steve: Mad River has rotating physicians so training would have to be offered

repeatedly. He wants online training or in-house training as opposed to training with Mental Health to make it easier on his staff. Jet offered to meet with Mad River to further discuss this issue before they roll out their training. Per Stayce: Del Norte Mental Health does not do telepsych, but Sutter Coast Hospital has the option. Del Norte's wait time for an LPS bed (refers to patients under conservatorship) is three to fifteen days. Roy concurred that is quite common, and sometimes they send patients needing beds as far away as San Diego or Los Angeles. Per Jet: Sempervirens will accept patients from out of county if they have beds available. Per Charles: What impact will the new law have on an ambulance's authority to restrain a patient who wants to leave the ambulance? Per Stayce: Ambulances still have no authority to restrain a patient. Per Charles: Will the telepsych program reduce the number of patients in Sempervirens? Per Jet: Probably not; it will more likely free up beds in emergency rooms.

North Coast Paramedic Program Update

Per Doug: The program has thirty-one students. They take their final exams this Friday and will start field internships as early as next week. The program has agreements with City Ambulance, Arcata Ambulance, and Del Norte Ambulance. CAL-ORE has not submitted an agreement yet, but Doug expects them to. The program will start again in August. There are four applications for August's program. Per Doug: Next year College of the Redwoods will begin an LVN to RN program, as well as continuing their current RN program. Beginning with the next program efforts will be made to ensure there are no conflicts between nursing and paramedic student scheduling in hospital departments.

FTO Class

Per Doug: Last week he taught a Field Training Officer class at the Northern CA Safety Consortium. Only two of the eleven students passing the class were eligible to be an FTO. The other nine will become eligible once they meet all the other requirements over the next six months. Doug would like a working FTO to teach the class in the future. The FTO class uses NCEMS guidelines. Per Larry: The FTO program is not standardized in California.

Review of Morphine, Fentanyl and Aspirin Protocols

Kayce will revise the morphine protocol to list it as a relative contraindication for pulmonary edema instead of an absolute contraindication. She also discussed the issue of weight-based dosage for morphine vs. a maximum dosage based on pain levels. She will send out a new draft for review. Regarding Fentanyl, Kayce did not receive comments on the protocol. She believes this is because few paramedics are using it. The policy uses a weight-based single dose; she may suggest changes allow for additional dosage, as she has with morphine. MAC members did not believe Fentanyl should be restricted to single dose. Per Dr. Moustafa: The benefit of Fentanyl vs. morphine is Fentanyl has less histamine release. The Committee also decided to add language to the protocol stating paramedics cannot switch back and forth among pain medications. Regarding aspirin, Kayce changed the protocol to state a single dose of 324mg instead of the current dosage of two to four "baby aspirin". There is no need for a new training program on giving aspirin because this is currently covered in the EMT class.

3. NEW BUSINESS

Addition of DuoNeb (combination of Albuterol and Atrovent) to Protocols

Per Doug: The current protocol allows mixing .5mg of Atrovent and 2.5mg of Albuterol. He noticed DuoNeb contains .5mg of Atrovent and 3mg of Albuterol. He inquired if the protocol could be revised to carry DuoNeb. Kayce was not aware that the protocol stated .5mg/2.5mg and believes this is in error. The state has approved combo drugs like DuoNeb as a way to save time from mixing drugs

Image Trend Program Update and Cost Discussion

Larry summarized Image Trend and how the state EMSA has decided to implement the program in California. NCEMS assumed the state would continue to cover the cost of early use implementation. This may not be the case. The start date for payment on Image Trend is June 1st. Per Larry: There are two tiers in Image Trend--a stationary/laptop tier that uses an internet-based program, and a tablet-based

program that must be downloaded to the device. NCEMS has supported the former, and has only committed to fund this tier. The cost for the internet-based tier is \$10,000 per year. NCEMS decided from the beginning not to support the second tier option, and has told providers that if they want that program, they would have to cover the costs. Upon reviewing the contract, they found the state wants each LEMSA to manage the payments for whichever tier a provider chooses. Thus if a provider chooses the mobile device tier, NCEMS would invoice them based on \$1.00 per call. They would have to be paid promptly by the provider in order to maintain their contract with the state. NCEMS has sent a memo to all providers informing them of this stipulation, and urging them not to adopt tier two unless they are certain they can afford the payments. While Humboldt Bay Fire and City Ambulance have tested the tablet-based system, only Lake County is currently using this tier. Per Doug: Arcata Ambulance's intention is to have the mobile device tier two available but not to use it unless the internet goes down, thus making it impossible to use tier one. He is concerned about a future cost of switching from EPCIS to Image Trend; EPCIS has always been free for them to use. Larry conceded that NCEMS may not be able to pay the annual \$10,000 (a much higher cost to them than EPCIS) without raising fees to cover costs. Doug is also concerned that fees may be raised once all providers are under contract. Doug is also concerned about the amount of paper Image Trend generates to print a PCR. Per Kayce: When printing PCRs, switch from "EMS Report" to "Critical Care" and it will print a more simple report. The downside is the font is much smaller.

5. EMS Report

Per Larry: The governing board meets on 07/17/14. He discussed Senate Bill 1975. The bill would change current law to require LEMSAs to participate in regional trauma coordinating committees. The bill would shift authority on trauma center designation from LEMSAs to these coordinating committees. Larry opposes this bill because there are few RTCCs in California and they are often weak and unorganized. If the bill passes it will cause delays in trauma designation, especially for rural LEMSAs. The bill is going before the Assembly Health Committee hearing today; if it passes the committee Larry will ask MAC members for letters in opposition. Revisions to the public safety regulations would increase the required hours of CPR/first aid training for law enforcement, fire, and lifeguard personnel. Jaison, NCEMS, and others supported adding oxygen use to the scope of practice as well. There were several other additions to the scope, including training on NARCAN. Larry is favorable to the new proposals. Larry distributed a flyer on EMS for Children training on 06/27/14, 8:30-5:00 at the Warfinger building. Del Norte County may start a "MAC North" group. At 1:00pm today there will be a meeting in Hoopa to continue discussions on Hoopa Ambulance service in the area.

6. EMS Commission Report

Per Kayce on behalf of Jaison: The public safety regulations are out for public comment. The commission met to discuss national registry testing sites. The state will tell Pearson Vue to increase the number of testing sites and decrease the costs.

7. Facility Reports

Mad River Hospital—Per Steve: They are now getting images from St. Joseph Hospital. Issues with *Sempervirens* are being resolved. Steve thanked Jet for her efforts. Their parking lot paving project is complete.

Del Norte Ambulance—Per Ron: Del Norte County's Board of Supervisors extended their contract for eight years. The Board also declared May 18-24 as EMS week in Del Norte. This Friday they are having an "EMS Week BBQ" at the DN fairgrounds. They have placed new tourniquets on their ambulances. Their Explorer program for high school age ride-alongs is active again. They are teaching CPR-PRO, ACLS and PALS courses. Charles has been working on E-Core (computer tracking software for personnel).

Jerold Phelps—Per Angel: On 06/04/14 they are having an MCI on decontamination with a focus on pediatrics.

DHHS-Mental Health—Per Jet: Some of their psychiatrists have quit or retired, thus they are short staffed. May is Mental Health month. They have been using electronic health records for 1 ½ months and are still adjusting to the new system. This Friday, Mental Health consumers are having a BBQ.

City Ambulance—Per Kayce: Garberville now has 4G internet hot spot that City Ambulance can connect to.

Sutter Coast Hospital—Per Roy: They are moving toward being designated as a Critical Access facility. They are meeting with a Mental Health representative every month to discuss 5150 hold issues because they are not a designated receiving facility under section 1799.11.

DHHS-Public Health—Dr. Baird again discussed Humboldt County's problems with prescription opiate abuse. Public Health has been working with the Independent Practice Association (IPA) and the Humboldt-Del Norte Medical Society for the last year to education hospitals and medical practices. Tim distributed information about Functional Assessment Service Team (FAST) training on 06/10-06/11/14 and ICS 300 training on 06/16-06/18/14. Public Health is responsible for bringing these trainings to the area. Per Tim: These are significant trainings that will not be offered again this year. The official deadline for FAST signups is almost past, but the state may allow continued signups. Tim wants those interested to submit an application to him soon. Tim is also the contact for ICS 300.

St. Joseph Hospital—Per Tracy: They have a field care audit on 06/21 featuring the Humboldt County Coroner who will talk about investigating deaths. She wants to get paramedics at Humboldt Bay Fire to begin rotating through St. Joseph's ER this summer. She introduced Dr. Moustafa, their new PCMD. He discussed his previous medical experiences. He has privileges at both St. Joseph and Redwood Memorial hospitals.

Arcata Mad River Ambulance—Per Doug: They will have their annual company awards dinner next Friday, 05/23/14.

8. Next Meeting: Wednesday 06/11/14 at Humboldt Bay Fire Classroom (3030 L St.) at 9:00 a.m.