

MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the June 11, 2014 meeting held at Humboldt Bay Fire Classroom (3030 L St.).

Present:

Doug Boileau, EMT-P	Arcata-Mad River Ambulance
Joe Gregorio, EMT	CAL-ORE Lifeflight
Tina Wood, RN	CAL-ORE Lifeflight/NCEMS
Jaison Chand, EMT-P	City Ambulance
Tim Howard, Sr. Medical OA	DHHS--Public Health
Donald Baird, MD	DHHS--Public Health
Jet DeKruse, RN	DHHS--Mental Health
Sherry Gallagher, RN	DHHS--Mental Health
Ron Sandler, 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
Stayce Curry, RN	North Coast EMS
Wendy Chapman	North Coast EMS
M.H. Moustafa, MD	St. Joseph Hospital
Tracy Conner, RN	St. Joseph Hospital
Tracy Murphy, RN	Sutter Coast Hospital

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Per Stayce: Under Mental Health/EMS Update, paragraph two, change “adding language to their 5150 form stating the need for original signatures” to “... stating that copies are equivalent to original signatures.” Otherwise, minutes from 05/14/14 were approved.

2. OLD BUSINESS

Med Net System & MCI Channel Updates

Per Larry: Nothing new to report. Wayne Shaw, RWS, says everything is working fine. Per Doug: On yesterday’s MCI channel test, Arcata Ambulance was unable reach either the Horse Mountain or Roger’s Peak repeaters.

Mental Health/EMS Update

Per Stayce: She is still collecting data from Del Norte for the 5150 guidebook. She hopes the guidebook will be ready for review next month. She will attend Lake County’s Behavioral Health Collaborative Meeting. Topics at the meeting will include: Transportation, safety, medical screening, facility availability, SB82 grant, and organic brain injuries. She announced Sherry Gallagher is the new Nursing Director for DHHS-Mental Health.

North Coast Paramedic Program Update

Per Doug: There were thirty-one students at the end of the classroom portion. One did not pass the final skills exam and two need to re-test. Twenty have started field internships, mainly at City Ambulance and Arcata Ambulance. Other students will be interning at CAL-ORE, Del Norte Ambulance, Mt. Shasta Ambulance, and Kelseyville Fire Department in Lake County. Thirteen students have already signed up for the next program (the program needs thirty).

Image Trend Update

Larry distributed a memo detailing Image Trend program costs. Most local providers are using or are training to use. Northcoast EMS has finalized a contract effective June 1st with Inland Counties EMS (ICMA) to work together on Image Trend IT issues. Larry reviewed the options for using Image Trend

and the cost for each option. He was notified the State EMS authority may have special project funding available to help LEMSAs with data moving, which could help NCEMS with health information exchange opportunities for the hospitals. NCEMS plans to apply. Humboldt Bay Fire may use Tier 2 (mobile version). Per Tim C: What type of IT support will they receive if they decide to use Tier 2? Per Larry: ICMA EMS is the primary support, but NCEMS will continue to contract with Jay Myhre as a backup. Per Ron: Del Norte has begun using the program, but it is slow at times. Per Jaison: In the future, he believes City Ambulance will use Tier 2. Per Joe: CAL-ORE will switch to Image Trend in the next six months. Per Doug: The printing problems he discussed last time have improved, per Kayce Hurd's suggestions. He is having problems adding words to the spelling directory. Doug also brought up issues concerning Image Trend's "autofill" function. Per Larry: Send questions/suggestions to Louis and Mark Roberts, ICEMA technical advisor.

Policy/Protocol Updates

Ron wants more timely updates, and would like to receive them as they are developed, not all at once. This would help them implement the policies. Per Larry: Once Dr. Stiver returns, the policies will start going out more timely. Doug received an email from Kayce implying that DuoNeb is equivalent to 2.5mg and .5mg of Atrovent. Given this, he hopes NCEMS will find its use as acceptable in its policies.

Hoopa Ambulance Update

Per Larry: Hoopa Ambulance is continuing to struggle with deficits from offering ambulance services to Eastern Humboldt and Western Trinity Counties. This year Humboldt County was able to provide reimbursement of \$200,000 but will not next year. Hoopa Ambulance is losing up to half million annually. Supervisor Sundberg has proposed some type of "public safety tax" to address not only ambulance service in Hoopa, but also to add more law enforcement officers throughout the county. The California Center for Rural Policy is funding a poll for this proposal, in hopes of leading to it being put on the ballot by this November. For now Hoopa is continuing to provide ambulance service. Doug has concerns with trying to attach this issue to a larger services tax. Another proposal was to create a new tax zone including the service area for Hoopa Ambulance. He thinks this proposal would take two years to get on the ballot. The position of the Tribal Chair is if Hoopa Ambulance does not get funding, they will only continue ambulance service within their tribal radius. Doug believes this is an unrealistic position. Per Jaison: There is a new proposed bill, AB 2577, that would apply existing legislation that allows public entities and tribes to receive additional federal reimbursement for Medi-Cal patients, up to the actual cost of providing those services, to patients covered under Medi-Cal managed care. This would help ambulance companies such as Hoopa. A discussion ensued on the repercussions of the bill.

3. NEW BUSINESS

MAC North Meeting

Per Larry: At Ron's suggest, he has created MAC North for MAC members in Del Norte County. The first meeting is 06/24/14. Del Norte members are still invited to come to the regular MAC meetings. The same morning prior to that meeting, NCEMS personnel will meet with new personnel at Sutter Coast Hospital and discuss trauma designation, a PDNL position, and other issues. Ron believes the meeting will be well attended. MAC still plans to have annual meetings at Sutter Coast hospital. Per Tracy M: They are already doing critical access, and on-site visits will begin in the next 1-2 weeks. Their CAO has resigned. They have a new Director of Nurses.

4. NCEMS Report

Per Larry: Their governing board meeting is on 07/17/14 at 3:00 at the NCEMS office. They received state matching funds, which are their primary revenue source. The HPP grant funding will continue, but at a reduced amount. The EMS for children tactical grant is in its third of four years. NCEMS is again looking to hire a new Cultural Liaison. Wendy, Dr. Stiver, and Dr. Marson are attending the annual EMS for Children meeting in Washington, DC. Larry again mentioned the EMS for Children training on 06/27/14 at the Warfinger Building. Cost is \$10.00. He distributed a flyer/registration sheet. Wendy asked anyone who wants to attend to contact her. NCEMS received an initial check from St. Joseph

Hospital for STEMI Center designation. They are now awaiting the pre-site visit checklist. Once that is received, they will proceed with site visits and re-activating the Cardiac Coordinating Care Committee. Larry believes designation will take 4-6 months. SB 1975, which would have required LEMSAs to participate in regional trauma coordinating committees, is dead. Another bill, AB 1621, would require a single-standard for implementing an EPCR in California. If the state selects the program, LEMSAs would be locked into the costs of that program. Even though NCEMS has committed to Image Trend, they would have to change to the state-selected program if different. Larry distributed copies of a letter from EMSAAC opposing the bill. Per Jaison: The original bill has been changed to such an extent that he does not see where it mandates a single vendor, thus he is not concerned. Larry is still concerned with how the state would interpret the bill.

5. EMS Commission Report

Per Jaison: The forty-five day comment period for public safety regulations closes on 07/07/14. Oxygen is still in the optional scope of practice. He distributed a scope of practice matrix from state EMSA. Per Larry: The regulations will address the issue of Oxygen. NCEMS already plans to create policies and procedures for EMS responders to use Oxygen, regardless if it is in the optional or basic scope. Per Tim C: What is the difference between “glucose measuring” and “measure blood glucose”? Per Jaison: It is probably a mistake. Per Tim C: Will there be any new CE requirements for public safety personnel? Per Wendy: The certifications are still for two years. Jaison believes several skills that are not commonly used, such as chest seals and emergency childbirth should be moved to the optional scope. Tim C inquired about the current discussions to expand the use of Narcan. Larry believes the push to expand Narcan is unnecessary because four years ago there was an assessment of Narcan availability where no example was found of anyone needing it who did not get it. Per Dr. Moustafa: Paramedics should concentrate on the basics, such as BVM, instead of first using drugs like Narcan. Per Jaison: A current issue is routing of 911 calls made from cell phones. All the calls go initially to CHP, which is an out of date procedure. CHP must send them to the proper local dispatch center. The state is planning over the next several years how to change where the calls are routed to. Currently CHP receives the 911 call from the nearest tower. The call can go to another county’s tower, and CHP will not know where the person makes the call actually is. In Humboldt, there are at least a dozen Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and CHP does not know which PSAP to route the call to. If CHP gets a call regarding a fire, they automatically transfer it to CAL-FIRE, who must then find the specific location. Per Wendy: In Fortuna, cell calls now are routed directly to the Fortuna PD, so this problem is already being addressed in some places.

6. Facility Reports

CAL-ORE—Per Joe: Their base in Weed is running well. They are getting a new ambulance next week and new Power Stryker gurneys are also coming. They are putting IPADs on their ambulances. They will be busy in August because of a concert in Port Orford with 15,000 attendees, and the Del Norte County Fair. Per Tina: The new HICS (Hospital Incident Command System) standards are in effect. She is able to teach a course in HICS through the Hospital Preparedness Grant. She recommends trainees first take ICS 100, 200, and 700, but she will tailor the course for people who have not completed all those courses. There is a field care audit in Hoopa on 07/11/14 on mass casualty. The Criminal Mass Casualty planning group has nearly completed their plan, which will next go to law enforcement agencies for review.

DHHS-Mental Health—Jet introduced Sherry Gallagher, new Director of Nurses. Jet plans to teach a course in Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) and would ambulance personnel and other medical personnel to sign up. The course may take place next January. Per Larry: NCEMS will advertise the training. Mental Health is sending staff to “Mental Health First Aid” training. This training is geared toward people throughout the community who are not clinicians but have contact with clients with mental health issues. Mental Health is still putting together a future 5150 training.

City Ambulance—Per Jaison: They had an MCI exercise with Redwood Memorial Hospital a few weeks ago. They intentionally did not tell all their crews about the exercise to make it more realistic. Their performance in the exercise did not go as well as hoped. In response to this, Jaison believes City Ambulance need to conduct more MCI exercises this summer.

Sutter Coast Hospital—Per Tracy M: They are moving forward with Critical Care Access designation. They have a lot of new personnel.

Del Norte Ambulance—Per Ron: Six Rivers Forest Service did an in-service training on fire season. The Forest Service told them this summer will be a busy fire season. They sent three staff to a Field Training Officer (FTO) course. Ron believes at least one is ready to start being an FTO now. Del Norte County approved a new contract with Del Norte Ambulance. They have two new ambulances in services and two older ones going out of service.

Jerold Phelps—Per Angel: They had an MCI drill last week where they set up their surge tent and decon tent. The drill went well. They will have a field care audit on 06/26/14. They will be busy this weekend due to the Redwood Run, the rodeo, and high school graduations.

St. Joseph Hospital—Per Tracy C: Recently Humboldt Bay Fire began doing radio checks with their ER. They will have a field care audit on 06/13/14 taught by Dr. Gerdes on toxicology. Tracy is trying to organize a field care audit at the Samoa Dragstrip on topics such as extrication from cars.

DHHS-Public Health—Per Dr. Baird: California has over 2,800 cases of confirmed pertussis. He believes the real figure is a multiple of five. Normally, California experiences three to five year cycles of pertussis cases, and we are in the second of this probable cycle. California already has more cases this year than all of last year. There was a documented case of measles at St. Joseph Hospital. They followed their protocols very well. Within seven hours, the case was diagnosed. Dr. Baird suggested St. Joseph write up an After Action Report (AAR) on the event and submit it to Public Health. Tracy C thanked him for his support during the event. Dr. Baird fears there will be more cases of pertussis and other illnesses in the United States due to Americans traveling to the World Cup soccer tournament. Per Tim H: Functional Assessment Service Team (FAST) training is underway at the Aquatic Center in Eureka. Next week's three-day ICS 300 training has changed venues from the County Agricultural building to the Aquatic Center on Monday and Tuesday, and to the Warfinger Building on Wednesday. He was asked to change venues on short notice and could not find one venue for three days in a row. He is sending out information today to all those he previously contacted, and will contact NCEMS to have them send out a notice to all MAC members. There are still a few slots available for the training. Public Health's goal is to offer another ICS 300, as well as ICS 400 training, in the fall and/or next year. Public Health's Hospital Preparedness Coordinator resigned a few weeks ago; Charlene Pellatz, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, is now working the HPP grant herself, with Tim assisting. She will hold interviews for the vacant position starting next week.

Humboldt Bay Fire—Per Tim C: Two firefighters are currently doing paramedic field internships. Two students are signed up for next year's class. Humboldt Bay Fire has begun a two-hour Continuing Education (CE) program at the training center every other month. So far the course has been successful.

Mad River Hospital—Per Steve: Dr. Luu has been appointed as their new Medical Director, replacing Dr. Taylor. Recently the hospital faced security issues with two patients who were discharged but did not leave the building. As a result they will implement new security policies, including locking down the building after 9:00pm.

Arcata Mad River Ambulance—Per Doug: They will receive a new ambulance by the end of July. They are still constructing a new storage building in McKinleyville to house their disaster supplies.

7. Next Meeting: Wednesday 07/09/14 at St. Joseph Hospital at 9:00 a.m.