

MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the October 8, 2014 meeting held at Mad River Hospital.

Present:

Doug Boileau, EMT-P	Arcata-Mad River Ambulance
Paul Duncan, EMT-P	CAL-Fire
Cannon-Cutts, Melody	DHHS--Public Health, Del Norte
Tim Howard, Sr. Medical OA	DHHS--Public Health, Humboldt
Charlene Pellatz, RN	DHHS--Public Health, Humboldt
Ron Sandler, EMT-P	Del Norte Ambulance
Tim Citro, EMT-P	Humboldt Bay Fire
Patsy Barker, RN	Mad River Community Hospital
Steve Engle	Mad River Community Hospital
Tuan Luu, MD	Mad River Community Hospital
Ken Terpening, RN	Mad River Community Hospital
Larry Karsteadt	North Coast EMS
Louis Bruhnke, EMT-P	North Coast EMS
Laurie Garrison, RN	Redwood Memorial Hospital

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the 09/10/14 meeting were approved.

NEW BUSINESS (moved up from section 3)

Ebola Preparedness Checklist/Interim Guidance on Ebola

Larry distributed and discussed a CDC checklist for Ebola preparedness. He believes the checklist is reasonable. He distributed CDC interim guidance on EMS and PSAPs for managing patients known or suspected to have Ebola. Larry and Louis both have concerns over the guidance because they believe it may put EMS personnel in danger. They also do not want PSAP's to do the extensive screening discussed in the guidance. Tim C agrees because the symptoms of Ebola are vague, and he also does not want EMS personnel to have to go through the entire CDC checklist. Larry wants a County policy on managing Ebola. He is hoping for guidance from State EMS and CDPH which NCEMS will use to coordinate with County Public Health Agencies and hospitals if there is an Ebola case. Per Louis: CDC documents such as this usually cover a clinical hospital setting, and do not translate well to an ambulance setting. Per Ron: Del Norte Ambulance has created a document on Ebola symptoms, and procedures for using PPE when dealing with a suspected Ebola patient. He will send the document to NCEMS.

Per Charlene: Public Health bought (PAPRs) for their medical partners, but this was twelve years ago and she suspects none still exist. There is funding available through the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) grant to buy PAPRs and other medical supplies and equipment.

There was a discussion on developing a plan for Ebola care and transportation. Dr. Luu believes the procedures for transferring a suspected Ebola patient should be similar to existing procedures for transporting a patient with a dangerous chemical exposure. Per Ron: The contingency plan should be specific on if there is a patient within 500/200/100 etc. miles of the Northcoast, not just if there was one here. Per Charlene: The Northcoast should have a plan, but not with extensive resources because the odds of Ebola coming to this area are still very low. Others agreed but suggested the plan be called something more comprehensive, such as a general pandemic plan.

2. OLD BUSINESS

Med Net System & MCI Channel Updates

Larry, Jaison and Doug, met with CAL-FIRE to discuss MCI channel use vs. declaring an MCI. He also met with Charlene, Bill Linn (Public Health's HPP Coordinator), and Don Nelson of County Communications to discuss the history of who is responsible for maintaining and upgrading the radios and mountaintop repeaters. He will request funding through the regional Med-Net fund for needed upgrades. Per Charlene: Tim H has been reviewing old documents in Public Health's storage from the 80s back to the 60s for references to radio communications and who was designated as responsible for their maintenance.

Doug is working on the issue he discussed in the previous meeting of Arcata Ambulance not being able to hear CAL-FIRE's simulcasts from their command center. The Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association approved allowing Arcata Ambulance joining their microwave link, which means they will have to move their transmitter from the Command Center to Pierce. Arcata Ambulance is also required to contribute to the maintenance of the link. Doug has applied for reimbursement through the Hospital Preparedness Program grant for moving the transmitter. Charlene thought this problem sounded similar to one Arcata Fire had years ago with their communications, which they also addressed by accessing HPP funding to move their transmitter. Doug was unfamiliar with that history. Doug believes the repeater problems are atmospheric because reception is much better in clear weather than fog/clouds. Ron inquired about the status of the repeater he believed to be on Red Mountain. Per Larry: The Med Net repeater Del Norte Ambulance uses is on Camp 6, not Red Mountain, and is not being shut down. He does not have a status update on Red Mountain.

Mental Health/EMS Update

Per Larry: Stayce Curry is still working on the 5150 guidebook. Kristie Kelly of Lake County Mental Health resigned. Per Ron: Del Norte County has a new Mental Health Director, Jack Brezal, and a new Health and Human Services Director, Barbara Pierson.

North Coast Paramedic Program

Per Doug: There are now fifteen students in this year's program (two dropped). From the previous program, seven students have completed the program but five have not taken their national registry exams. Agencies employing students from the 2013 program will soon receive a survey. Doug asked everyone who receives it to complete it. Per Louis: For a paramedic to maintain their place on the national registry, they now have to take a "transition course", which is only currently being offered in southern California. This course is designed to give them extra skills that will conform to the new National EMS Education standards. This requirement is different than merely maintaining their state license. Per Doug: The transition course is also online nationally. Louis was unaware of this and thought any transition course for paramedics had to first be approved by the state. Doug does not believe this to be the case. Per Ron: Del Norte Ambulance is trying to bring a national paramedic recertification training course to the area.

Image Trend Update

Per Larry: They have successfully linked Image Trend to NIMS 3 compliance. Otherwise, nothing new to report.

Policy/Protocol Updates

Per Larry: The Fentanyl policy has been adopted. Policies on aspirin, oral glucose and Narcan are also moving forward. Medical providers must be trained to use these medicines. NCEMS is developing trainings, which Dr. Stiver can approve himself without involving the state.

Per Louis: Is nasal intubation allowed under new state paramedic regulations? Per Tim C: Humboldt Bay Fire has the ability to use it; he believes it is in the local scope of practice. Before the advent of C-PAPs, it was used more often. Per Patsy: Hoopa Ambulance has done it twice this year that she knows of. Per Doug: Nasal intubation is still being taught as part of the expanded scope.

Larry distributed an email regarding SB 1438. It was signed into law over opposition by NCEMS and others. By 2016, the law requires the State EMS Authority to develop regulations for expanding training and scope of practice for EMT-1 extension. This includes regulations for the use of EPI pens and Narcan. LEMSAs will not be mandated to implement the regulations.

Per Larry: The EMS Commission Public Safety Regulations have been approved. NCEMS will begin revising its policies to include them in their curriculum. They also now have to approve first aid/CPR programs.

Per Laurie: Redwood Memorial does not have an orthopedic surgeon on call. She wants clarification on how they should go about re-routing a patient to another hospital. A: The regulations state they need to confirm there is a surgeon at another hospital first on a case-by-case basis before sending the patient there. Per Patsy: Even when they do not have an orthopedic surgeon on call, sometimes patients will come there first anyway if they are unstable. Once the patient is stabilized, then they are sent to the facility with the orthopedic surgeon.

MAC North and Helicopter Meetings Update

Per Larry: The last MAC North Meeting went well. Per Ron: Some of the attendees still need to learn more about MAC issues.

Per Larry: The helicopter meeting was well attended. The meeting was scheduled to address problems with communication devices, and who is to be in charge of an incident where helicopters are in use. Per Ron: Del Norte Ambulance wants everyone to go through one communications system. Currently, all first responders in Del Norte do not and this has caused problems. Ron believes the best choice is the Del Norte County Sheriff's system.

3. NEW BUSINESS

New Cultural Liaison

Larry introduced Keith Taylor, NCEMS new Cultural Liaison. Keith is a member of the Confederate Tribes of Oregon, former Chief of Police of Hoopa, and a former tribal prosecutor. He has developed cultural protocols for law enforcement to follow when interacting with tribal members. He estimates that he has trained around seven thousand police officers. Keith wants to develop similar protocols for EMTs and other medical personnel in this region. Cultural issues to consider included how EMTs should conduct themselves when entering someone's home, transport, and how to handle a deceased's remains. Per Tim C: Humboldt Bay Fire has encountered such issues many times, not just with Native Americans, but with other cultures such as the Hmong community. Per Keith: In addition to tribal communities, he has also worked with other cultures in this area, such as Hmong and Lao.

Review Disclosure Protection Specific to MAC

Larry distributed the Evidence Codes for discussing patient cases. Per Larry: NCEMS Quality Improvement regulations tie into code 1157.7. Per Larry: MAC members can review cases with hospital staff during the meetings, but no one attending is allowed to mention those discussions outside of the meetings. Doing so can lead to one's removal from MAC. Members may need to start signing a form stating they will not take such discussions outside of the MAC meeting (Larry has those forms). Per Larry: The committee may decide, if a patient case is particularly sensitive, to shift the committee from MAC to the Quality Improvement Committee and then continue discussion. Ron pointed out the last sentence of 1157.7 which states certain provision of the Government Code "shall not be applicable to the committee records and proceedings." Larry believes those prohibitions still apply to this committee. Charlene pointed out the reference to Section 1157 of the Evidence Code in 1157.7, but Larry did not include that section in his distribution. Larry will review 1157 for the next meeting. There was discussion on how hospitals discuss patient cases in their field care audits. Per Louis: NCEMS is establishing a policy to address the concerns of paramedics and other medical personnel over

those discussions. He pointed out that hospitals can establish stricter policies on such discussions than those of NCEMS if they choose to.

4. NCEMS Report

Per Larry: The next JPA meeting is planned for 10/23/14, but may be moved to the next week. Tim C has not been getting agendas ahead of time. Larry already alerts MAC members to agenda items he feels are especially relevant to them, but will begin forwarding the agenda to Humboldt Bay Fire.

Per Larry: NCEMS's regional EMS plan is due to the state by early December. He has asked the state to extend the deadline to January 2015. He is unclear if the state wants a whole revision to their plan or just an annual update. He will ask them to clarify. The Quality Improvement plan and Trauma plan are also going to be updated. Larry wants to make the updating process for these plans public.

Louis attended the Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC) meeting in Alameda. The main topic of discussion was NAPA County's response to the recent earthquake. Louis was impressed with their dispatch center's response (EMD regulations were suspended and the center made many decisions quickly while events were unfolding). He thinks their response could be a model for future disasters, and sees Napa's dispatch center is being similar to the ones in this region. Louis would like to invite Jesse Allured of Napa EMS here to discuss their response to the earthquake.

5. EMS Commission Report

Louis attended the most recent Commission meeting. The Commission continued to discuss the Kern County's appeal of a state denial of their EMS plan. There was also a discussion on a proposal by the State EMS to have their Council represent the EMS Commission. Jaison objected to this proposal because he felt it would create conflicts of interest for the Commission if it needed to study issues related to State EMS.

6. Facility Reports

DHHS-Public Health—Per Charlene: Next week Public Health is facilitating a tabletop to prepare for the November statewide medical exercise. Humboldt's topic this year is MERS-CoV. The tabletop is schedule for 11/15/14 from 1:30-4:30 in the large conference room of the Professional Building, 507 F St, Eureka. Charlene especially wants hospital Infection Control representatives to attend. Public Health will participate in the annual Shake Out earthquake drill on 10/16/14 at 10:16am. On 10/17/14 Public Health will host "PIO and Crisis Communication" training at the Warfinger Building, #1 Marina Way, Eureka, from 8:30-12:00 and practice media interviews in the afternoon. The speaker is Norman Hartman, a national expert on media relations. From 11/04-11/06/14 Public Health is hosting another ICS 300 course, to be held at the Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center, 921 Waterfront Dr, Eureka, from 8:30-5:00 each day. Initially, the course is being advertised to County employees, but may be opened up to others. Public Health is also planning to bring an ICS 400 Course to the County in the future, as well as a CHEMPAK training next March, 2015.

Humboldt Bay Fire—Per Tim C: One of their EMTs has received their paramedic license. They are presenting two upcoming trainings. The first is a course on obstetrics, at 9:00-11:00am, available either 10/13, 10/14 or 10/17/14. The second is a course for first responders on how to handle radiologically contaminated personnel at 9:00am-1:00pm, available either 10/27, 10/28, or 10/30/14. After this course, attendees can take an optional tour of the Humboldt Bay Power Plant from 2:30-4:00. Tim C recommends the tour highly for anyone who has never been in a Nuclear power plant before.

CAL-FIRE—Per Paul: Yesterday a CAL-FIRE tanker pilot crashed while fighting the fire near Yosemite and did not survive. Otherwise activity is slowing down due to the recent rainstorms.

Mad River Community Hospital—Patsy wants to have a discussion about STEMI transfers. They are having issues with the transfer center. Larry suggested forming a transfer committee to discuss these issues in greater detail outside of MAC. Per Steve: For such a committee to be successful, a representative from the transfer center must be involved. Per Laurie: Even though St. Joseph and Redwood use the transfer center, if this is not working, she would rather work directly with other hospitals to transfer patients. Furthermore, if patients want to go to a specific hospital, St. Joseph/Redwood will forward their request to the transfer center and usually they will accommodate the patient's request.

Redwood Memorial Hospital—Per Laurie: They have been busier since Dr. Baird's and Dr. Rangel's, practices became part of Open Door Community Health Centers because they have been referring more patients to the hospital.

Del Norte Ambulance—Ron urged members to support HR5860, which would lock in the "super rural" rate for Medi-Care reimbursement instead of it having to be renewed annually. The American Ambulance Association is having their annual conference in November in Las Vegas. DN Ambulance is changing their radio's PL tones and not releasing them to the public due to recent hacking incidents.

Arcata Mad River Ambulance—Per Doug: Their new ambulance is not in service yet; they are awaiting inspection by the CHP.

7. Next Meeting: Wednesday 11/12/14 at St. Joseph Hospital at 9:00 a.m.