

MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the February 11, 2015 meeting held at St. Joseph Hospital.

Present:

Doug Boileau, EMT-P	Arcata-Mad River Ambulance
Paul Duncan, EMT-P	CAL-FIRE
Jaison Chand, EMT-P	City Ambulance
Tim Howard, Sr. Medical OA	DHHS--Public Health, Humboldt
Donald Baird, MD	DHHS--Public Health, Humboldt
Tim Citro, EMT-P	Humboldt Bay Fire
William Rush, MD	Humboldt-Del Norte Medical Society
Angel LaRue, RN	Jerold Phelps Hospital
Steve Engle	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

Per Larry: under **Exclusive Operating Area**, last sentence, insert “concept of” after “Larry believes the plan...”. Under **EMS, Trauma, QIP**, first sentence, replace “will be added” with “is part of” after “The EOA Transportation plan...”. Otherwise, the minutes from the 01/14/15 meeting were approved.

2. OLD BUSINESS

North Coast Paramedic Program

Per Doug: College of the Redwoods is in the process of selecting a new President. The college is required to review and update the every course and curriculum and student learning objectives every five years. The class is scheduled to begin in the fall. Regarding the LVN/Paramedic to RN Bridge program, the current program is full and there are no paramedics enrolled. Interested paramedics should apply now to get on the waiting list for the program in two years.

Med Net System & MCI Channel Updates

Louis did not know if the MCI channel test was conducted yesterday or not, but NCEMS did not get any results. The hospital representatives indicated they did not hear the test either. There was no update on the Med Net system.

Image Trend and HIE Program Update

Per Larry: Nothing new to report on Image Trend. Per Larry and Louis: NCEMS received the signed HIE program contract back from the state. The grant is \$60,000 for this year. Louis summarized how the grant will be used. It will help subsidize purchasing hand-held devices for the providers so they can use the mobile version of Image Trend. The state wants PCR information flowing in real time from paramedics to the hospitals, so the grant will help pay for a “discovery project” to help bring about this goal. NCEMS is contracting with Mellissa Glass, who has extensive experience with HIE to work on the project. Louis also wants to use the grant to build a “back end” section to Image Trend, similar to the one that existed with EPCIS that would integrate with the data collected in Image Trend. He has asked Jay Myhre to build this section. There are many hurdles to getting the data from ICEMA, the State repository for this data. Another challenge is that few agencies in the state know a lot about HIE. The deadline to complete all these projects is 09/31/15. Per John: What system does CAL-ORE/REACH use? Per Louis: They are using a custom version of Image Trend built specifically for them.

Policy/Protocol Updates

Per Larry: NCEMS released the info-mail on EMT use of aspirin. The new proposed transfer policy was disseminated for review. Per Tim C: The fire service is being lobbied to buy hand-held CO monitors, similar to pulse oximeters. There is funding available for at least the next couple of months to purchase them. The devices cost approximately \$800.00. He asked what protocols they need to meet to buy and use those devices. Per Louis: NCEMS does not have a policy on using those monitors, but he knows this has been discussed for years throughout the state and that some LEMSAs have adopted policies. He will research those policies. Dr. Rush asked how the monitors assess CO levels. Per Tim C: Through a finger probe it measures the level in a patient's blood. Per Louis: Paramedics have expressed concern to him on dosage levels for nebulized epinephrine for croup. Specifically, a paramedic in Lake County sent him links to literature stating no benefit from nebulized epinephrine. He has not had a chance yet to read the research sent to him. He asked Kayce Hurd to research the recommended dosage of 5ccs of 1/1000, which she confirmed. Louis agrees with the paramedics that this sounds like a high dosage. Per Dr. Rush: That dosage level sounds acceptable for a single administration, not continuous. Per Louis: Currently the only option paramedics have is continuous.

Infectious Disease Update

Per Dr. Baird: New Ebola cases are down in West Africa. The U.S. military is leaving the West African nations they were assigned to. He believes the military has done a great job of helping the countries organize an infrastructure to respond to Ebola. There are no Ebola cases in this country. There are no measles cases in Humboldt County, however there have been cases of a viral rash occurring in infants that resembles measles. He has researched this virus because he has not seen it in thirty years. He distributed a document to help providers differentiate measles from other diseases. He believes that we will see more rare diseases in the future, but he believes the public and public officials are becoming more favorable to immunizations. Dr. Baird instructed MAC members that if there is a measles outbreak at their facility, they must be able to prove immunity for their staff, or their paramedics must be quarantined for twenty-one days. Per Tim C: Humboldt Fire has never required measles immunization as criteria for hiring; is this now recommended? Per Dr. Baird: Yes. The CDPH will require this proof. He has the power as Health Officer to order a quarantine. Per Jaison: Do people have to have another MMR if they had one longer than ten years ago? Per Dr. Baird: No, if they have two MMRs in a lifetime they are covered. Jaison would like to meet with a representative from Public Health to go over all the diseases that staff should be covered for. Dr. Baird mentioned that the Public Health lab has the capability to do PCR testing in the same day for diseases such as measles.

STEMI Program Update

Per Larry: He, Selinda Shontz, and Dr. Stiver met with representatives from St. Joseph hospital, and went over their site visit checklist. Larry distributed a draft of a survey on 12-leads in Humboldt County and asked for feedback. On the question about transmission capability, Jaison suggested including a question on hospital's receiving capability. Per Tim C: Is receiving capability part of the hospital STEMI checklist? Per Larry: This issue was not part of the checklist. More discussion ensued on hospital STEMI activation requirements and associated costs; Per Larry: Through this survey, NCEMS will revisit these issues later on.

Exclusive Operating Area/Transportation Plan – Humboldt County

Per Larry: NCEMS is going to ask for direction from the Joint Powers governing board regarding the transportation plan, specifically for the establishment of EOAs within that plan. The next board meeting is scheduled for 02/19/15. The EOA will be the primary agenda item. St. Joseph Hospital received a letter to NCEMS regarding EOA which he will share with members later on if they wish. Per Dr. Baird: What is the next step after the JPA meeting? Per Larry: If the EOA is approved, it will go out for public comment, and then NCEMS will present it to the Board of Supervisors. If the BOS approves the plan, it will go back to the governing board for approval before it is submitted to the state.

EMS, Trauma, and QIP Plan Revisions

Per Larry: The state is dropping their request for LEMSAs to write a five year EMS plan. NCEMS now only has to submit their annual progress report on current standards. The EMS draft plan narrative is complete and out for comment. The narrative includes sections on STEMI, and disaster preparedness inventory. The Trauma plan draft is also out for comment. Larry hopes to send both of these plans to the governing board for their acceptance on 03/19/15. Louis is still working on the QIP plan. Larry emphasized the QIP will be separate from the EOA.

Inter-Facility Transfer Discussion

Larry distributed OSHPD inter-facility data for Del Norte and Humboldt Counties from 2008-06/2014. He summarized the data. Almost all data is ground transportation. Most facilities have seen increases in inter-facility transfers. He asked members to review the data and the old Inter-facility transfer policy sent through info-mail.

A discussion ensued on the transfer center. Per Steve: Mad River Hospital uses the transfer center intermittently. Per Jaison: In the past few weeks, there have been three cases where their ambulance was delayed in getting the call because the transfer center transferred the call to an out-of-area air service that could not get in due to bad weather. The transfer center also attempted to use air transport when ground would have been more efficient. This would have added considerable costs to the patient's bill. CAL-ORE is able to fly out of Humboldt/Del Norte more easily during bad weather than others can fly in. Per Larry: CAL-ORE has a new helicopter base in Willits, a fixed wing in Coos Bay, and is opening a new operation in Klamath Falls. When discussing his concerns with the CEO of the transfer center, Jaison was told the center is following algorithms set by the hospitals. He is now going to meet with hospital representatives to discuss those algorithms. His goal is to get the transfer center to call in to arrange local transportation once the destination has been determined. He was invited to take a tour of the transfer center and plans to go next week. Per Paul: CAL-FIRE would like to know of any out of area helicopter transports coming into this county so they can advise them on air traffic and weather. Per Larry: Dr. Tate of Lake County has been dealing with transfer issues for some time and has analyzed CAD data on transfers from the County Sheriff's office. Larry would like to do a similar project for Humboldt and Del Norte, but his office does not have the resources to take on this project. Per Dr. Baird: Sometimes the transfer center is interrupting conversations between physicians who are attempting to decide how best to transfer a patient. He gave an example he was involved with the previous weekend.

Dr. Rush suggested families buy membership in an air ambulance company such as CAL-ORE/REACH, because of the cost savings. Larry agrees. Per Paul: There are drawbacks such as when people live in or move to areas where one transportation company will not cover, or one company cannot cover another's membership.

Laurie suggested inviting representatives from the transfer center to a future MAC meeting. Per Steve: In addition to discussing air transport issues with them, also inter-ground transfers. Per Larry: Joe of CAL-ORE also should attend a meeting that includes transfer center representatives. Per Doug: Invite other transport companies as well. Tim C would also like hospital representatives to bring their algorithms to this future meeting. Paul suggested forming a sub-committee or workgroup specifically to study inter-transfer issues. Since Lake has had such a committee for years, Laurie suggested inviting Lake County members of this committee to a future meeting as well.

Patient Destination Policy Discussion

Larry distributed a new patient destination policy draft. He discussed significant revisions and asked members to email their comments. Per John: Regarding IV→D, when a patient is redirected or by-passed to another facility, the physicians at each hospital do not have to discuss it with each other. Per Laurie: Usually the physicians cannot discuss the transfer with each other because both are not available at the same time. She believes it is important for the physicians to be informed of the transfer.

3. NEW BUSINESS

First Net Discussion

Per Louis: First Net is a network (both broadband and WI-FI) that offers one frequency for first responders to use. He was invited to sit on the panel for implementing First Net. Louis is in favor of the program. He believes this area is better prepared to adopt it, unlike in the past when Reddi-Net was brought to the area. He concedes the initiative for implementing First Net in this area does not address some of our ongoing communications issues, but he believes providers from this area should be involved in the implementation so our concerns are addressed. If not we will be unprepared if directed by the state to use it, such as was the situation with Reddi-Net. Per Paul: The federal government has designated a wireless 700 mhz band allocated to emergency responders. The bandwidth is for data and not voice. The project is ambitious, but Paul sees difficulties for rural areas such as ours based on existing communications problems caused by terrain. Per Larry: Wayne Shaw of RWS told him he also does not see First Net being of use in this area. Per Dr. Rush: Other entities are also fighting to get some of the limited remaining bandwidth.

Senate Bill 19 – Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment Form: Statewide Registry

Larry distributed the bill. It has not been passed yet. He distributed it for informational purposes and does not believe it requires any action by MAC. The bill would set up a registry of POLST information.

4. NCEMS Report

Per Larry: NCEMS's phone system is being replaced and currently their messaging system does not work. The system should be replaced within the next two weeks. In the meantime, Larry asked members to email instead of calling. Larry distributed an email about the North Regional Trauma Coordinating Committee Transfer guidelines. The goal of the guidelines is to transfer a patient within one hour or less. The TCC wants LEMSAs to approve (by putting their logo on the form), make sure it is posted in hospitals, and help fund the project. Several members voiced objections to various guidelines in the form. Larry decided to inform TCC that this area will not participate for now, pending clarification on several concerns. Larry distributed a New England Journal of Medicine article on healthcare reform. Per Larry: Jerold Phelps is now designated as an Emergency Department Approved for Pediatrics (EDAP). Larry distributed an email on pending legislation to extend add-on payments for rural ambulance providers. Larry asked members to send letters of support.

5. EMS Commission Report

Per Jaison: The next Commission meeting is next month in Los Angeles. The Commission may approve the emergency regulations to allow the current appeals on transportation plans to be referred to the Office of Administrative Hearings. He asked for clarification from Larry on the fifteen-day public comment period for the regulations because the next meeting is in less than a month. He and Larry agreed that the comment period would have to begin almost immediately.

6. Facility Reports

DHHS-Public Health—Per Dr Baird: Nothing else to report.

Humboldt-Del Norte Medical Society—Per Dr. Rush: He continues to campaign for larger, county-wide drills.

Humboldt Bay Fire—Per Tim C: They will begin training on aspirin and pulse oximetry for EMT I next month. Once EMTs are trained, aspirin and pulse ox will be added to all their front-line engines.

CAL-FIRE—Paul thanked Doug for helping set up Arcata-Mad River Ambulance on CAL-FIRE's microwave transmitter. This has improved communications between them and CAL-FIRE. They have completed an active shooter training with CHP.

Jerold Phelps—Per Angel: They are now EDAP certified. Their next field care audit is on 02/26/15.

Redwood Memorial—Per Laurie: Their next field care audit is on 02/26/15 at 9:00am.

City Ambulance—Per Jaison: They are planning a major MCI exercise for sometime in May-July. He wants to conduct the MCI in the Eel River Valley area. He wants several other agencies to participate. He has not decided on a scenario yet. It has been over two years since City Ambulance last MCI exercise and around 50% of their staff do not have the experience. Tim C would like to meet with Jaison to update MCI plans. Doug mentioned an upcoming functional exercise in March in Fortuna with the scenario of a hazardous spill on the highway. Jaison is aware and would be interested in participating, but has not followed up with those conducting the exercise.

Mad River Community Hospital—Per Steve: Their ER is participating in the countywide chronic pain management program to reduce prescription medication overdoses. Staff in both the ER and Birth Center have completed Stable Training (management of pediatric patient after intubation). They are planning a hazmat drill with Sun Valley Floral in June.

Arcata Mad River Ambulance—Per Doug: They are now connected to the CAL-FIRE microwave link, which has greatly improved communications between them. They have remodeled their McKinleyville location.

7. Next Meeting: Wednesday 3/11/15 at Redwood Memorial Hospital, Renner room, at 9:00 a.m.