



North Coast EMS Agency

Agreement #C19-019

1st Quarter Task Report July 1 - September 30, 2020

Below each bulleted item, include a summary of the activities that have taken place during the quarter related to the individual tasks.

Component 1 - System Organization and Management

Objective - To develop and maintain an effective management system to meet the emergency medical needs and expectations of the total population served.

Tasks: The responsibilities of the EMS agency, at a minimum, include:

- Staff development, training, and management

North Coast EMS personnel attended or participated via Zoom or conference calls in the following state EMS activities including: EMSAAC, EMSAAC/EMDAC Legislative, EMSA/LEMSA, EMSA/LEMSA COVID, EMSA/EMDAC COVID, EMSA and Regional Agency, the EMSC Technical Committee, the LEMSA Administrator and Medical Director meeting in Sacramento, CDPH HPP Disaster and COVID meetings, and; in the following local EMS meetings and other activities: Humboldt/Del Norte Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) meetings, Lake County Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC) meetings, Lake County Inter-facility Transfer meetings, Lake County Priority 1 meetings, EMSC TACTICAL call with UCDMC, Policy Review Committee meetings, Humboldt-Del Norte Trauma Advisory Committee meeting, Humboldt-Del Norte Cardiac Committee meeting, contractor meetings and communications (Medical Director, Trauma, STEMI/Stroke, Policy Review, Behavioral Health, IT, EMSC), North-Regional Trauma Coordinating Committee, Humboldt HPP Liaison, Humboldt County Child Death Review Team meetings, Humboldt County Child Passenger Safety Committee meeting, Humboldt, Del Norte and Lake County Fire Chiefs Association meetings, Behavioral Health, and numerous county COVID related and other meetings. We also contracted with Lee Hawkins and later hired Lee as the Fiscal Manager, and advertised for the replacement of Louis Bruhnke, who after 22-years at North Coast EMS, was hired by the EMSA as their Chief Deputy Officer. It was a pleasure to work closely with Louis all of these years and we are very pleased that he is now in an even more important EMS position within California. We are also pleased that we will be able to continue to work with him in his new capacity at the state's lead EMS agency. North Coast participated in numerous COVID related activities, including planning and coordination with each county, policy and protocol preparation, preventive state approved or requested scope of practice increases to assist with testing and flu and COVID vaccinations. We also applied for and received two one-year COVID related grants, from the Humboldt Area Foundation and CDPH



HPP COVID. Since July 1, my monthly COVID related work is at least 30% of my time , while, less travel time reductions and delayed site surveys, all regular work has continued. Specific to the ongoing CDPH HPP Disaster grant, we completed the three year audit with no findings, completed the Year-End Report and the FY 20-21 application including the work plan. This quarter, or last, we completed and submitted the Regional EMS Plan and QIP Annual Plan updates.

- Allocating and maintaining office space, office equipment, and office supplies

North Coast EMS routinely maintains office space, equipment and supplies.

- Executing and maintaining contracts with member counties, service providers, consultants, and contractual staff

We executed or continued to execute administrative contracts with: EMSA General Fund, JPA member counties, UCDMC for a six-month extension to the end of December of the federal EMS for Children TACTICAL REGIONALIZATION grant, the HPP disaster medical grant with CDPH, Dr. Karp as Regional Medical Director, Rita Henderson as EDAP and Trauma Nurse Contractor, ePCR IT programmer Jay Myhre, Ezequiel Sandoval - Office IT, Moss Levy and Hartzhiems - fiscal audit, Stayce Curry - Regional Behavioral Health contractor, Kayce Hurd – Paramedic and EMT policy revisions, Dennis Louy, Patrick Lynch and Kimberly Baldwin as County HPP Liaisons for Del Norte Humboldt and Lake County respectively, Selinda Shontz – STEMI and Stroke, ICEMA – Image Trend management; and Coastal Valley's EMS re: C.A.R.E.S. All contractors are part-time, independent, may engage in other contracts and provide expert services otherwise not available to North Coast EMS staff. North Coast EMS continued to receive from, and distribute by request, Pediatric Maddy Funds in all three counties. We continued contracts with seven designated Paramedic Base and Receiving Hospitals, 14 Paramedic Service Providers, numerous First Responder agencies, three Emergency Medical Dispatch Centers, seven EDAPs, four Trauma Centers and one STEMI Receiving Center. We will lose the EMSC for Children TACTICAL grant funding at the end of December 2020 that will need to be replaced as a portion of staff and contractor revenue is covered by the UCD MC subcontract. As reported above we received to new, one-time COVID related grants, from the Humboldt Area Foundation to generally help support COVID related activities, and from CDPH. The latter covers a portion of my time, increases Dr. Karp's paid time, and covers all of Stayce's time as it currently involves nothing but COVID coordination with Behavioral Health. Since July 1, my monthly COVID related work is at least 30% of my time, while, less travel time reductions and delayed site surveys, all regular work has continued.

- Attending or participating in a minimum of 3 EMSA/LEMSA meetings annually (following advance notice and reasonable justification provided by the LEMS, EMSA will make a determination on the flexibility of the attendance requirement on a case-by-case basis, and in the event the quarterly EMSA/LEMSA meeting is canceled, attendance at the meeting will not be counted for/against the LEMS)

This quarter North Coast EMS attended one EMSA/LEMSA meeting in person at EMSA office and attended all EMSA COVID meetings.



Component 2 - Staffing and Training

Objective - To ensure LEMSA authorized personnel functioning within the EMS system are properly trained, licensed/certified/authorized and/or accredited to safely provide medical care to the public.

Tasks: The responsibilities of the EMS agency, at a minimum, include:

- Ongoing assessment of local training program needs

North Coast EMS has numerous mechanisms for determining training program needs, including: meetings where EMS system and training needs are discussed or can be requested; staff attendance at state and federal meetings where state and national standards and best practices are reviewed; communications with regional EMS instructors; review of quarterly QIP reports from base hospitals and providers; input from stateholders, etc. Several first responder agencies are now approved for the use of Naloxone. Due to repeated alerts from some of our EMS provider agencies that they are unable to reliably stock narcotic analgesics, we are nearing completion of the process to request EMSA to add Ketamine to the paramedic scope of practice. Our plan to add IV Acetaminophen was discontinued. We previously received EMSA approval for trained medics to assist counties with COVID testing and plan to request approval to assist with flu and COVID vaccinations. Stayce Curry continues to take the lead on development of tools to support the management of 5150 patients especially during the pandemic.

- Authorizing and approving training programs and curriculum for all certification levels

North Coast EMS has numerous approved training programs that have been verified to meet or exceed state minimum standards, including curriculum and instructor requirements. These programs include: Public Safety, First Responder, EMT-I, Paramedic, MICN, continuing education, etc.

- Providing training programs and classes as needed

We continue the process to approving Public Safety First Aid and coordinating First Responder courses as needed for the three counties, including Naloxone utilization for Public Safety and First Responder personnel according to state standards.

- Providing ongoing certification/authorization/accreditation or personnel approval of local scope of practice for all certification levels

North Coast EMS issues numerous EMT-I certifications, paramedic accreditations and MICN authorizations annually. We have policies specific to BLS and ALS scope of practice and numerous continuously updated protocols and policies specific to the EMT-I and EMT-P scope of practice. We conducted a three-county wide Policy Committee teleconference meeting this quarter, are expanding the Basic and Advanced scope of practice and are assessing options for further enhancement of our policy review and update processes.

- Developing and maintaining treatment protocols for all certification levels



North Coast EMS has numerous policies specific to the BLS and ALS scope of practice and continuously updates protocols and policies specific to the EMT-I and EMT-P scope of practice. We convened one Policy Review Committee meetings via teleconferencing this quarter to ensure routine regionwide review and revision of North Coast EMS clinical policies. We are in the process of adding Epi Pen to the Public Safety, First Responder and EMT scope of practice according to state standards and we are also assessing opportunities to continue to improve the policy review processes.

- Maintaining communication link with Quality Improvement program to assess performance of field personnel

North Coast EMS has extensive QI policies and the updated QIP Plan was approved by the EMSA. We previously approved all base hospital and ALS Providers QIP Plans and require all approved ALS providers and designated base hospitals to submit quarterly QIP reports summarizing activities in each of the QIP regulation required categories. We also select a focused review topic each quarter.

- Conducting investigations and taking action against certification when indicated

North Coast EMS did not take any actions against a certificate holder or conduct any reviews this quarter.

- Authorizing, maintaining, and evaluating EMS continuing education programs

North Coast EMS has approximately 33 approved CEU providers and policies are in place to authorize new and review existing providers if needed.

Component 3 - Communications

Objective - To develop and maintain an effective communications system that meets the needs of the EMS system.

Tasks: The responsibilities of the EMS agency, at a minimum, include:

- On-going assessment of communications status and needs

North Coast EMS previously approved, jointly with Napa County, the Emergency Medical Dispatch program at CALFIRE ECC in St. Helena, which is now the 9-1-1 dispatch center for Lake County. We also previously approved the aero medical dispatch plan for Lake County to utilize a single dispatch frequency by REACH Flight Guard upon activation by the St. Helena ECC. We continued EMD program approval of Eureka PD and CAL FIRE Fortuna. The latter is also approved as the Del Norte and Humboldt aero medical dispatch center.

- Assuring appropriate maintenance of EMS related communications systems

We plan to continue to work with each county, hospital and provider to help ensure future Med Net and/or field to hospital Communication Systems integrity. We also have participated in communications to help improve 12-lead ECG transmission to the STEMI Receiving Center in Humboldt County.



- **Approving ambulance dispatch centers**

All three counties have centralized and North Coast EMS approved dispatch centers for ambulances. City Ambulance of Eureka is the primary ground ambulance dispatch center in Humboldt County, although Hoopa {K'ima:w} Ambulance may occasionally be dispatched through a separate process. The Del Norte County Sheriffs Dispatch Center is responsible for ground ambulance dispatch in Del Norte County. Lake County utilizes the CALFIRE ECC in Napa County for ambulance dispatch. CALFIRE ECC in Fortuna and CALFIRE ECC in Napa County are the North Coast EMS approved aero medical dispatch centers in Del Norte/Humboldt and Lake respectfully.

- **Providing acceptable procedures and communications for the purpose of dispatch and on-line medical control**

Communications procedures and medical control policies have been in place for decades and are updated as needed.

- **Approving emergency medical dispatch (EMD) training and/or operational programs**

North Coast EMS continues to approve the national EMD training programs at the Eureka Police Department, the CALFIRE ECC in Fortuna and the CALFIRE St Helena ECC (jointly with Napa County EMS). City Ambulance of Eureka informed us that they plan to send their dispatchers through a national EMD training program.

Component 4 - Response and Transportation

Objective - To develop and maintain an effective EMS response and ambulance transportation system that meets the needs of the population served.

Tasks: The responsibilities of the EMS agency, at a minimum, include:

- **Designating EMS responders including first responders, Limited Advanced Life Support (LALS)/Advanced Life Support (ALS) providers, ambulance providers, and Prehospital EMS Aircraft providers**

North Coast EMS designates First Responder training programs (see 2.1 above) Each County Board of Supervisors permits or contracts with ambulance providers. All ambulance providers, four non-transporting providers and one fixed wing aircraft provider are North Coast EMS approved ALS Providers. North Coast EMS has policies and MOUs specific to in- and out-of-area EMS helicopters.

- **Monitoring local ordinances related to EMS**

Two county ambulance ordinances are approved by the respective Boards of Supervisors and enforcement is the responsibility of the Public Health Departments with the assistance of North Coast EMS as needed. Lake County is interested in revising their ordinance. The North Coast EMS participated in all previous ordinance updates as is required by statute.



- Establishing policies and procedures to the system for the transportation of patients to trauma centers and/or specialty care hospitals as needed

North Coast EMS has established and periodically updates policies and procedures for the transportation of patients to trauma and other specialty centers. North Coast EMS currently has four designated trauma centers, one in Del Norte County that receives all injured patients, two in Humboldt County with recently developed triage and destination criteria, and one in Lake County with triage criteria identical to Coastal Valley's EMS. This quarter we drafted a Retriage Policy and evaluated data specific to the Lake County trauma catchment area. We also have a STEMI destination policy that sends all Humboldt County STEMI patients directly to the designated STEMI Receiving Center in Eureka. All policies are approved through public process.

- Implementing and maintaining contracts with providers

North Coast EMS has executed contracts with all approved ALS Providers and with REACH Medical Holdings to include a ground CCT unit in Del Norte County.

- Creating exclusive operating areas

EOA contractor Pam Mather and North Coast EMS continued to prepare a comprehensive draft EMS contract for CAE and AMRA to roll out the EOA grandfathering process pursuant to EMSA approval of the Humboldt County Transportation Plan.

- Inspecting ambulance or LALS/ALS providers

North Coast EMS delegates ambulance inspections to Base Hospital Prehospital Care Nurse Coordinator (PCNC)s for new ALS providers or for cause. No inspections have needed to be conducted this quarter.

- Developing and enforcing performance standards as needed

See above. We are planning to implement ambulance performance standards associated with the Humboldt County Transportation Plan as part of the EOA grandfathering process. This included extensive assessment of five years of response time history per zip code to help establish a performance expectation baseline.

Component 5 - Facilities and Critical Care

Objective - To establish and/or identify appropriate facilities to provide for the standards and care required by a dynamic EMS patient care delivery system.

Tasks: The responsibilities of the EMS agency, at a minimum, include:

- Designating base hospital(s) or alternate base stations for on-line medical control and direction

All seven base hospitals are designated by contract as Paramedic Base and Receiving Centers, six as "Modified Base Hospitals" that are no longer required to utilize MICNs. We need additional staff time to adequately monitor base hospitals.



- Identifying ambulance receiving centers including hospitals and alternative receiving facilities in rural areas

All seven hospitals are designated receiving paramedic centers; another is a state designated mental health receiving facility. We have two alternate receiving centers at two Standby Hospitals (St Helena Clearlake and Jerold Phelps), both of which were approved by the EMSA and North Coast EMS as Alternative Paramedic Receiving Hospitals years ago.

- Identifying and designating, as needed, trauma centers and other specialty care facilities

Please see the EMSA approved Trauma Plan Annual Update. Three Level IV trauma centers (two as Basic and one With Fulltime General Surgery) and one Level III trauma center are designated within the three county region. The joint trauma survey with Oregon for Sutter-Coast Hospital was conducted previously, and the delayed surveys to Sutter-Lakeside, St. Joseph and Mad River Community Hospitals are scheduled for November. We conducted one Humboldt-Del Norte-Lake TAC this quarter. Trauma Registry data transmission from all four trauma centers to the state repository has been completed for 2019. North Coast EMS continues to work with each trauma center to ensure uniform data entry so we can compare "apples to apples" information and timely data transmission pursuant to state and ACS standards. We are also reviewing Humboldt County cases with trauma center representatives.

North Coast EMS designated SJH as a STEMI Receiving Center and activated the Humboldt County STEMI system on 3/3/16 and we continue to oversee this program. We conducted one Humboldt County STEMI/Stroke Committee meeting this quarter.

All seven hospitals are Emergency Departments Approved for Pediatric (EDAP) designated. We are planning to conduct site survey's at both EDAPs in Lake County, J. Phelps and Sutter-Coast in 2020 the same week as the trauma center surveys.

- Periodically assessing trauma system and plan as needed

See the EMSA approved Annual Trauma Plan Update.

- Coordinating trauma patients to appropriate trauma center(s) or approved receiving hospitals

For Lake County, North Coast EMS has an approved Trauma Triage Policy that integrates with Coastal Valley's EMS policy and is very similar to the national standard. Patients meeting Trauma Triage Criteria are directly transported to our designated trauma centers, or in Lake County, by air to the closest higher level TC located out of county. Sutter-Coast Hospital in Del Norte County receives all trauma patients due to geography. In Humboldt County, patients meeting critical trauma patient criteria are triaged and bypassed, or not, on a case by case basis by the Level IV trauma center with surgery. We drafted a Retriage Policy and continue to assess the Trauma Catchment area policy in Lake County. Adventist-Health Clearlake Hospital previously applied for Level IV designation but this is currently on hold due to the pandemic.



- Periodically assessing hospitals (e.g., pediatric critical care centers, emergency departments approved for pediatrics, other specialty care centers)

North Coast EMS continued to receive and distribute, by request, Pediatric Maddy “Richie’s” funding to our seven designated EDAPs. This quarter we continued participation in the UCD MC EMSC TACTICAL Regionalization grant and supported requests from EDAPs to purchase pediatric related equipment and training, etc.

North Coast EMS formally designated SJH as a STEMI Receiving Center in 2016 and continues to conduct HCCC meetings and monitor and enhance the STEMI system. The 5150 Handbook is periodically updated and available on our web site – northcoastems.com. Behavioral Health contractor Stacey Curry continues to work on development of uniform medical screening criteria for Behavioral Health patients, standardize timelines for a 5150 hold, 5150 online training programs and we continue to support county Behavioral Health grants and Crisis Response Teams etc in each county. As mentioned above, Stacey continues to provide critical local and state coordination of Behavioral Health relative to COVID-19.

- Completing hospital closure impact reports

None were requested or completed this quarter.

Component 6 - Data Collection and System Evaluation

Objective - To provide for appropriate system evaluation through the use of quality data collection and other methods to improve system performance and evaluation.

Tasks: The responsibilities of the EMS agency, at a minimum, include:

- Reviewing reportable incidents

North Coast EMS reviews all discovered or received reportable incidents. During this quarter we took no formal action.

- Reviewing prehospital care reports including Automated External Defibrillators (AED) reports

These reports were discontinued by EMSA years ago.

- Processing and investigating quality assurance/improvement incident reports

North Coast EMS oversees an extensive Quality Improvement Program and utilizes an EMSA approved Regional QIP Plan. QIP Plans have been approved by North Coast EMS for all Base Hospitals and ALS Providers, who also submit quarterly QIP updates. EMSA is in the process of reviewing the North Coast EMS Plan annual update.

- Monitoring and reporting on EMS System Core Measures by March 31st each year, and acknowledging completion of the monitoring and reporting as of March 31st each year



North Coast EMS submitted the last state requested Core Measures this quarter. We again reported several opportunities for EMSA to enhance the quality of Core Measures criteria.

- Providing data to CEMSIS monthly

See above. ImageTrend data goes directly to ICEMA upon completion of each e-PCR by EMTs and paramedics. Several other vendors e-PCR programs have been approved for use and data continues to be submitted to ICEMA by each ALS Provider. North Coast EMS continues to pay upfront and ongoing costs for the providers to utilize the ICEMA ImageTrend e-PCR program and is currently only able to recover a portion of our costs.

- Implementing Health and Safety Code Section 1797.227, including providing data using the current versions of NEMSIS and CEMSIS standards from Electronic Health Records (EHR)

All ALS Providers utilize NEMSIS and CEMSIS compliant EHR programs.

- Engaging healthcare partners and Health Information Organizations in your jurisdiction in discussions and planning efforts to integrate EMS into developing health information exchange networks according to the models being developed under the ONC grant

The EMS super-utilizers study being conducted in Lake County has been completed.

Component 7 - Public Information and Education

Objective - To provide programs to establish an awareness of the EMS system, how to access and use the system and provide programs to train members of the public in first-aid and CPR.

Tasks: The responsibilities of the EMS agency, at a minimum, include:

- Information and/or access to CPR and first-aid courses taught within the EMS system

North Coast EMS has approved several Public Safety First Aid training programs that include CPR and first aid training. Approved scope options currently include Naloxone. We continue to work with Law Enforcement in their process to utilize Naloxone by trained personnel pursuant to state standards.

- Involvement in public service announcements involving prevention or EMS related issues

North Coast EMS staff members participated in local injury and illness prevention and children's safety programs. Though activities have been limited this quarter due to Covid restrictions.

- Availability of information to assist the population in catastrophic events, as appropriate



North Coast EMS participates in the HPP program and is involved with disaster planning. Each county has PSAs and other means of providing information to the public in catastrophic events.

- Participating in public speaking events and representing the EMS agency during news events and incidents

Nothing new this quarter.

- Seeking opportunities to collaborate with key partners, including local public health and other community organizations, to promote healthcare and injury prevention activities

North Coast EMS continues to seek opportunities to collaborate with key EMS and Public Health partners to promote healthcare and injury prevention activities.

Component 8 - Disaster Medical Response

Objective - To collaborate with the Office of Emergency Services, Public Health and EMS responders in the preparedness and response of the region's EMS systems in the event of a disaster or catastrophic event within the regions or a neighboring jurisdiction.

Tasks: The responsibilities of the EMS agency, at a minimum, include:

- Participating in disaster planning and drills as needed

North Coast participated in numerous COVID related activities, including planning and coordination with each county, policy and protocol preparation, preventive state approved or requested scope of practice increases to assist with testing and flu and COVID vaccinations. We also applied for and received two one-year COVID related grants, from the Humboldt Area Foundation and CDPH HPP COVID. Since July 1, my monthly COVID related work is at least 30% of my time, while, less travel time reductions and delayed site surveys, all regular work has continued. Specific to the ongoing CDPH HPP Disaster grant, we completed the three year audit with no findings, completed the Year-End Report and the FY 20-21 application including the work plan.

- Identifying disaster preparedness needs

As part of our HPP disaster planning activities we have been evaluating existing North Coast EMS and regional disaster preparedness needs. This includes review of numerous documents, attending meetings and working collaboratively with each JPA member county. Through the North Coast EMS County Liaison contractors, North Coast EMS worked with our Public Health Department partners to achieve the HPP objectives and define supporting activities associated with the last year's HPP work plan, as well as in development of the current year's work plan that was subsequently approved by CDPH. Specific to COVID and as reported above, we received two new, one-time COVID related grants, from the Humboldt Area Foundation to generally help support COVID related activities, and from CDPH. The latter covers a portion of my time, increases Dr. Karp's paid time, and covers all of Stayce's time as it currently involves nothing but COVID coordination with Behavioral Health. Since July 1, my



monthly COVID related work is at least 30% of my time, while, less travel time reductions and delayed site surveys, all regular work has continued.

- Coordinating the operational area disaster medical/health coordinator

North Coast EMS staff and HPP contractors coordinated with the MHOAC in each county, attended meetings, participated in local, state and regional Medical Disaster meetings and events and participated or coordinated numerous state, regional and county COVID related activities designed to support and assist each MHOAC.

- Coordinating the regional disaster medical/health coordinator system

See above.

- Developing policies and procedures for EMS personnel in response to a multi-casualty or disaster incident

North Coast EMS has MCI and disaster related policies and updates these as needed. In Humboldt County, we are working with Sheriff Office and other representatives to assess, and as needed, update the North Coast EMS MCI Plan and related policies.

- Facilitating mutual aid agreements

North Coast EMS has facilitated development of mutual aid agreements for decades and all ambulance providers have mutual aid arrangements with surrounding providers. North Coast EMS has no existing barriers to cross-jurisdictional utilization of paramedics provided state standards are followed.

- Collaborating with all EMS personnel on training of incident command and Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS)

North Coast EMS has supported and worked with County OES and other EMS organizations to help ensure ICS and SEMS training. Local training programs are conducted periodically and each approved EMT-I and paramedic training program includes these topics. North Coast EMS has supported and worked with County OES and other EMS organizations to help ensure ICS and SEMS training.