

# MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the January 9, 2019 meeting held at St. Joseph Hospital

## **Present:**

Doug Boileau, EMT-P	Arcata-Mad River Ambulance
Jaison Chand, EMT-P	City Ambulance
Donald Baird, MD	DHHS—Public Health
Ryan Derby	DHHS—Public Health
Tim Howard	DHHS—Public Health
Neftali Rubio-Mills	DHHS—Public Health
Tim Citro, EMT-P	Humboldt Bay Fire
Sean Anderson, RN	Mad River Hospital
Tina Wood, RN	Mad River Hospital
Louis Bruhnke, EMT-P	North Coast EMS
Kayce Hurd, EMT-P	North Coast EMS
Larry Karsteadt	North Coast EMS
Selinda Shontz	North Coast EMS
Pamela Collver, RN	Redwood Memorial Hospital
Tracie Conner, RN	St. Joseph Hospital
Lynn Perkins, RN	St. Joseph Hospital
Kari Vandiver, RN	St. Joseph Hospital
Thomas Dewey	Sheriff's Office

## Via Phone:

Rita Henderson, RN	North Coast EMS
Ron Sandler, EMT-P	Del Norte Ambulance
Lisa Neuger, MD	St. Joseph Hospital

## **1. INTRODUCTIONS/APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The 12/12/18 meeting minutes were approved.

## **2. OLD BUSINESS**

### **Paramedic Program Update**

Per Doug: Nineteen students from the previous program entered field internships. One dropped, one was unsuccessful, and two were given incompletes (one of those has since completed the field internship). Half of the students have either been licensed in California or passed the national registry. In the current class, most of the twenty-three students have entered clinical rotations. The annual report on the program is due in March, and the progress report is due in February. Doug does not know if College of the Redwoods has begun advertising for a new Director of Health Occupations at College of the Redwoods to replace Alison Pritchard, who is retiring in June.

### **Infectious Disease Report**

Per Dr. Baird: There are three viruses circulating in the state: 1. a common head-cold, 2. a respiratory syncytial virus, and 3. an H1N1 variant. The H1N1 is mostly an A strain, but B strain is being diagnosed. Hopefully, the community is already mostly immunized from the H1N1 outbreak of 2009. The current high dose trivalent does not cover the current B strain. Tomorrow's Grand Rounds will be an update on Public Health, specifically on its Lab capabilities. The Lab uses PCR to identify organisms. Public Health is planning to get a faster system to identify the organisms—the current system takes hours, but the new planned system would take only 15-20 minutes.

## **HPP Medical Disaster Project Update and Triage Tag Update**

Per Tracie: There was no triage tag exercise in December. St. Joseph plans to hold Triage Tuesday's on 01/15/19 and 01/29/19. She and Kari will be present for both exercises to help facilitate. Ryan and Elizabeth Wardell met last week to discuss holding a tabletop exercise practicing triage tagging and patient destination determination with the ambulance companies. Nothing has been finalized yet, so Ryan wants all those who would be involved to work together to create the exercise. He offered his assistance. Per Louis: Elizabeth will take the lead for NCEMS on such an exercise.

Tom Dewey, a retired Chief of Police from Humboldt State University, is now working with the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office on the development of a Criminal Mass Casualty Incident (CMCI) plan. The purpose of creating a CMCI plan is to ensure local fire and law enforcement departments are in compliance with AB 1598 which concerns active shooter incidents. Tom is the point person on this project. He is outreaching to medical entities to inform them of this project since fire and law's response will affect their response to a CMCI as well. The Sheriff's Office is using the North Bay Collaborative Response Protocol, developed a few years ago by representatives from ambulance, fire and police agencies, as a model, and expanding it to cover the entire county. His team has been offering a four-hour introductory seminar on CMCI throughout the county for fire and law. Tom distributed the most current draft of the CMCI covered in the seminar, as well as the pocket guide. One of his goals is to expedite resource request processes in order to be able to treat and transport gunshot victims out of the area quickly. Per Dr. Baird: Six gunshot victims at once would put local hospitals at capacity; ten would overwhelm this area. A discussion ensued on the concept of "warm zones" vs "hot zones". The reason AB 1598 came to be was due to an incident where EMTs were not allowed to enter an active shooter area to treat a wounded officer due to the area being on lockdown, even though the shooter was far away from that specific scene. Now EMTs can be able to enter a scene to treat wounded if law enforcement first has determined the area is safe (from a hot zone to a warm zone), even if the active shooter incident is not over. Per Louis: Fire departments still have the option to decide if their EMTs will enter a scene to treat wounded. He feels it will be difficult to ensure all the fire departments in the county will have consistent policies because there are so many. Per Tim C: Humboldt Bay Fire understands AB 1598 has created a new expectation on fire departments, so they are developing training with rescue teams to go into warm zones. Tom emphasized the new CMCI protocol is not a mandate but a standardized guideline for training. The CMCI includes a paragraph on "Right of refusal", which means one agency cannot dictate to an employee of another agency; disputes must be decided on an agency to agency order. Rita asked Tom for information on the CMCI to bring to the Trauma Advisory Committee. Kari believes hospital representatives should be invited to attend these seminars to understand the new protocols. Per Dr. Neuger: Hospital administrations should be trained to set up and run an Incident Command Center, which would communicate with the fire and law ICS in the field, and wants the administrators to attend the CMCI exercises. She believes that if Humboldt County had a mass shooting, it would be impossible to transport patients out of the area in an hour or less. Dr. Baird suggested sending all of the administrators if possible, and he will invite them to future ICS 300 and 400 courses offered by Public Health. Per Louis: The NCEMS MCI plan describes how such an incident is to be addressed—a paramedic at the incident communicates with a single individual at the base hospital about the number of victims and the extent of their trauma. The base hospital then canvasses other hospitals to determine how many patients they can accept. Louis agrees hospital administrations should attend the CMCI exercises to gain a better understanding.

Per Louis: NCEMS has committed to developing policies regarding casualty collection points and field treatment sites for its EMS plan. Louis wants to meet with representatives from fire departments and Public Health to discuss those issues. At some point, he will also ask Tom to join the discussions to ensure the CMCI plan is integrated with the NCEMS MCI plan.

## **Radio Reporting Format and Inter-Hospital Communications**

Louis distributed copies of the new Med-Net Communications guidelines. Per Kayce: The guidelines were sent to the policy review committee and then re-sent to the key stakeholders. There were few

comments, but comments received were addressed. She hopes it is now ready to be set as the final revision to the policy. Larry and Louis believe the policy may have to go back out for public review again, depending if the newest changes made were significant. Ron is unsure if Del Norte Ambulance received the policy. He will verify with Charles Tweed.

### **Advanced EMT**

Larry distributed Ron's draft of the Advanced EMT pilot program for NCEMS. Ron has met with Del Norte fire departments and some have expressed support. He wants feedback on the draft. It will go before the JPA on 02/07/19. Larry wants a few items in the draft clarified, but overall he supports Del Norte moving forward with the pilot project.

### **Health Information Exchange Grant**

Per Louis: The state and federal government have been in discussions on how the HIE will be funded. Will Ross has been following those discussions closely. Louis is waiting for his report. NCEMS disagrees with two of the state's four benchmarks for LEMSAs to participate in the grant. Since few LEMSAs have shown interest currently, Will believes the state may thus reconsider its benchmarks.

### **Trauma and STEMI Program Updates**

Per Larry: The JPA approved the annual trauma center fee of \$5,000 through 06/30/19. Three of the trauma centers have paid (Mad River has not yet, but their Administration is aware). Larry thanked hospitals for contributed trauma registry data. Rita is reviewing the data to compare volumes at each trauma center. NCEMS will use this data to help determine future fees. Larry hopes to have a recommendation on future fees prior to the next JPA meeting. Per Rita: The Trauma Advisory Committee will meet on 02/05/19, 10:00am, at Mad River Hospital.

Per Larry: The Humboldt Cardiac Coordinating Committee will meet following the MAC. St. Joseph's Cath Lab will review a few STEMI cases. Louis discussed the CARES program, which is a national repository of data on cardiac arrest. The program captures a series of data points (some from the field, some from the hospitals) on the treatment of a patient in cardiac arrest. The current version of Image Trend includes fields necessary for capturing those data points, which would then be shared with the CARES foundation. The purpose is for this region to gain information on how well it responds to cardiac arrest compared to other regions. He believes participation is feasible, but NCEMS still needs to determine if the region should participate in the program. Selinda agrees the CARES program is well established and has returned valuable data to hospitals who participate. Per Sean: Does this data also include when patients go into cardiac arrest while in a hospital? Per Louis: No, it is only EMS/pre-hospital data. Per Larry: Participating would cost \$1,200 per year. Coastal Valley EMS is the contracting entity for CARES in the state, and participating LEMSAs pay them on a sliding scale.

### **CCT Update**

Per Jaison: He and Dr. Baird, met with Roberta Luskin-Hawk, CEO of St. Joseph Hospital, to discuss critical care transport. CAL-ORE has offered to help with critical care transports by providing nurses for transports either locally or out of the area. CAL-ORE may also train nurses at Redwood Memorial on CCT so when a transport is needed, they could accompany the patient as an employee of CAL-ORE for the duration. Per Dr. Baird: Dan Brattain, CAL-ORE wants to train St. Joseph's nurses as well. Per Jaison: They also requested CAL-ORE involve City Ambulance early on with their Transfer Center in air transfers, in the event air transport is not available. Recently City Ambulance has had long transfers via ambulance who could possibly have gone via air. Approximately 50% of transfers are psych patients, and 50% are skilled nursing patients. Within the last few months, Vera Health has stopped taking handoffs from City Ambulance. City Ambulance has asked St. Joseph to intervene and ask Vera Health to once again start meeting City Ambulance again (typically around Willits or Ukiah) to perform handoffs. Per Doug: St. Joseph now also no longer allows nurses to accompany neo-natal transfers. Now Mad River Hospital must use its transfer Isolette, along with a Mad River Hospital nurse, to transfer a child to St. Joseph. Per Jaison: City Ambulance got such a request two days ago and could not take the child without a nurse.

### **MAC Meeting Schedule**

Doug distributed the 2019 MAC meeting schedule. It has also been sent it out to members electronically. He asked those responsible for room reservations to confirm the room number with Emily at NCEMS, and also inform her if a scheduling conflict prohibits them from hosting so other arrangements can be made.

### **3. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Humboldt/Del Norte Governance Agreement**

Per Louis: The Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) grant will no longer fund a county that does not have at least two hospitals. Since Del Norte County does not have two hospitals, they will enter into a governance agreement with Humboldt County. Per Ryan: Under the governance agreement, Humboldt and Del Norte Counties will jointly administer Humboldt's Healthcare Coalition Committee (HCC). Humboldt's Legal department approved the agreement, and is under review at Del Norte. Their Board of Supervisors will review the agreement around the end of February or the beginning of March. Once it is finalized, the first task for both counties is to test hospital surge capacity. Del Norte's new OES Coordinator, Caitlyn Goins, who also oversees the HPP grant in Del Norte, has stated the joint agreement is a top priority.

#### **PCR Calls that Need to be Fixed**

Per Louis: In Image Trend, the date on the PCR sometimes is wrong. NCEMS gets a report from ICEMA with a list of these PCRs, asking them to correct the mistakes. Mark Roberts is aware that Image Trend allows a paramedic to put in the wrong date, but he does not have an answer as to why. The current version that CAL-ORE/REACH uses does not allow this error. This report used to only come to NCEMS, who would fix the errors themselves, so Ambulance companies were unaware of the report. One issue is providers now receive the date error report even if they have made no errors for the time period (it is blank). There is no current way to stop unnecessary reports from generating. Per Ron: The report does not provide enough information as to what the problem is. Per Louis: The subject line in the message says "Calls in the future."

### **4. NCEMS REPORT**

Per Larry: The JPA meets on 02/07/19 at 10:30 at the NCEMS office. Video conferencing may be available. Larry believes the Board will continue discussions on trauma fees and Lake County's issues. NCEMS is still awaiting the CAL-ORE contract to be finalized. It is under review by CAL-ORE's legal department. NCEMS is drafting their EMS plan, outlining their objectives for the fiscal year. The plan will go out for public comment in approximately a week and a half from now. Larry thanked providers for helping complete the inventory section. NCEMS is in the process of billing for Image Trend costs. Dr. Stiver has moved out of the area and is phasing out as Medical Director. Larry distributed the recruiting announcement for a new Medical Director, and will also email it out to providers. The Medical Director approves all medical decisions made by NCEMS, thus the position requires substantial experience in emergency medicine, as well as an interest in administration in EMS. Larry distributed the EOA Oversight Officer recruiting announcement. NCEMS is planning EDAP site surveys this year. Larry wants to send providers, specifically ER physicians, to the UC Davis SIMS Center training program in April or May. Training is two days. All expenses are paid. Larry is very impressed with the SIMS Center and believes the training would be very valuable for any attendee. Sean is interested in expanding air capabilities at the Kneeland Airport. Per Jaison: Fixed wing cannot land at Kneeland, and the County is considering shutting down the airport. City Ambulance will oppose the shutdown.

### **5. EMS COMMISSION REPORT**

Per Jaison: The Commission has been trying without success to find a replacement for him. They may have found an appropriate replacement--Carol Meyer, a former Director of the LEMSA for Los Angeles. Jaison believes Carol will be receptive to rural concerns. He plans to go to Los Angeles to help orient Carol to the position, and will go to at least every other Commission meeting for a time. Dr. Eric Rudnick, from Shasta County, is the new Chair of the Commission, and is also receptive to rural concerns. Many other Commissioners have also been replaced recently as all their terms have expired. Per Larry: The Commission approved the EMS for Children regulations, and are still working on STEMI/Stroke regulations. Once those new regulations are approved, NCEMS will have to write an EMS plan for them as a separate document.

## **6. FACILITY REPORTS**

Mad River Hospital—Per Sean: Their field care audit was postponed; they will hold a training today on I-Gel, which will substitute for the field care audit. Hoopa Ambulance staff will also be trained.

City Ambulance—Per Jaison: They received two new Zoll Propaq MD Monitors. One will go into service at Eureka, and the other at Garberville. Regarding their QIP program, they have unresolved PCRs from St. Joseph and Redwood Memorial hospitals. Jaison will meet with Brandon Amis, their PCR specialist, and Mike Lee, City Ambulance's new QIP Coordinator on Monday to work them. Mike is now their official contact for PCRs. Louis asked for Mike's contact information so he could organize a time to meet with him.

DHHS-Public Health—Per Ryan: They are working on the governance agreement with Del Norte County for the HPP grant. They are revising many other emergency preparedness plans, two of which may affect MAC members, and the CHEMPACK and medical shelter plans. The medical shelter plan will address field treatment sites and alternate care sites. The Emergency Preparedness program will sponsor ICS 400, an advanced ICS course.

St. Joseph Hospital—Tracie has organized a NARCAN course for 01/24/19. She will train sixty sheriff's deputies. She is trying to organize a course called "Kevlar for the Mind", which teaches self-help for stress and is geared toward medical providers who perform shift work, and their spouses. Per Tim C: The trainer conducted this course for all Humboldt Bay firefighters who are on shift, and their spouses. He recommends the course. Ron is interested in such a course, if the trainer is willing to travel to Del Norte. Per Kari: St. Joseph will hold a TNCC at the end of March, and a trauma/critical care conference in May. They are working to expand skills for their ED nurses.

Humboldt Bay Fire—Per Tim C: All of their personnel are now NARCAN certified, so Humboldt Bay Fire will be able to stock all of their engines with NARCAN.

Redwood Memorial Hospital—Per Pam: They will hold a field care audit this month on OB complications. She plans to conduct a Hep Nitro certification class in March. She wants to hold I-Gel training in February.

Del Norte Ambulance—Per Ron: Yesterday there were nine overdoses from Coricidin at a Jr. High School. Only one child had severe complications. Del Norte Ambulance finished I-Gel training. Ron is reviewing their dispatching system to improve patient tracking. They placed an order for two new Zoll-X-series monitors, and three E-series monitors. Del Norte County has a new OES Coordinator (Caitlyn Goins).

Arcata Mad River Ambulance—Per Doug: Nothing new to report.

**7. Next Meeting: February 13, 2019, 9am at Redwood Memorial Hospital, Renner Room.**