

MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the May 8, 2019 meeting held at St. Joseph Hospital

Present:

Doug Boileau, EMT-P	Arcata-Mad River Ambulance
Joe Gregorio, EMT	CAL-ORE/REACH
Jaison Chand, EMT-P	City Ambulance
Donald Baird, MD	DHHS—Public Health
Ryan Derby	DHHS—Public Health
Tim Howard	DHHS—Public Health
Sofia Pereira	DHHS—Public Health
Ron Sandler, EMT-P	Del Norte Ambulance
Sean Anderson, RN	Mad River Hospital
Stayce Curry	North Coast EMS
Matthew Karp, MD	North Coast EMS
Kayce Hurd, EMT-P	North Coast EMS
Larry Karsteadt	North Coast EMS
Pamela Collver, RN	Redwood Memorial Hospital
Tracie Conner, RN	St. Joseph Hospital
Lisa Neuger, MD	St. Joseph Hospital
Kari Vandiver, RN	St. Joseph Hospital
Thomas Dewey	Sheriff's Office
Ruby Bayan, MD	Waterfront Recovery Services

Via Phone:

Tina Wood, RN	Mad River Hospital
Rita Henderson, RN	North Coast EMS
Dennis Louy	NCEMS/Del Norte

1. INTRODUCTIONS/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Per Ron: Jaclyn Sandler's name was miss-spelled in the minutes. Under "Facility Reports", Del Norte Ambulance is replacing their Zoll M series monitors, not N series. Per Stayce: under "Behavioral Health Update", AB1575 should actually have been AB1572. Otherwise, the 04/10/19 meeting minutes were approved.

2. OLD BUSINESS

Paramedic Program Update

Per Doug: The Program holds its final exam on 05/17/19. Doug anticipates that around twenty of the twenty-two students will enter field internship, starting 05/20/19. He has not received feedback from the accrediting body on the last report sent to them. He does not know where the Program will finally reside at College of the Redwoods, given the restructuring he discussed in the last meeting.

Infectious Disease Report

Per Dr. Baird: Flu season is officially over, although this area will still see sporadic cases, due to H3N2 arriving from the east coast. The United States is experiencing the largest outbreak of measles in fifty years. Nearly all those infected were unimmunized. There is even sustained transmission in Europe. There have been no reported measles cases in Humboldt County in the last year, but Butte, Shasta, and Tehama Counties have reported cases. The CDC recommends all who plan to travel abroad either be immunized, or receive a booster. Dr. Baird recommends adults who are unsure if they were immunized get either a booster (excluding pregnant women and those who are severely immunocompromised) or a measles titer, especially ambulance personnel. He emphasized that multiple studies have shown no

connection between immunizations and autism. People who have both MMR vaccines have over a 99% chance of protection. Even for that fraction who were immunized and still get measles, the disease will be less severe.

HPP Medical Disaster Project Update and Triage Tag Update

Per Larry: Nothing to report on the HPP Medical Disaster Project.

Elizabeth created guidelines on triage tags for EMS personnel, which she will send out next week. Tracie is working on similar guidelines for hospital nurses. She stated triage tag use would begin again on 06/01-06/04/19. Jaison asked for clarification because he believed Elizabeth had stated triage tag use would actually start on 05/20-05/25/19. Tracie will get clarification. In response to a suggestion by Louis Bruhnke that NCEMS could help purchase new triage tags, Tom reached out to several stakeholders to get feedback on what type of triage tags they would prefer. He presented two options, both by Disaster Medical Systems (DMS). One set is more expensive because it has attachable adhesive wristbands. Fire departments requested ribbon dispenser tags. DMS has that style, and so does SOS Products. Tom passed around a copy of different purchase options, and will also send it via email to NCEMS in .pdf form. He asked for feedback, which he will report back to the committee. Per Dennis: All public safety agencies in Del Norte have agreed to use the same type of triage tag (also one of the options Tom researched). Larry believes NCEMS could purchase triage tags through the HPP grant, but if not, NCEMS has other funding sources. Ron believes triage tags are now too detailed, and they become obsolete once the companies making them create new versions. He supports buying the most simple triage tags available. Per Dr. Karp: Hospital staff may get confused seeing patients wearing linked wristband triage tags because staff are accustomed to tags identifying a patient. Per Ryan: In implementing a triage tag policy, an integrated patient-tracking plan should also be implemented for all stakeholders. He proposed using recently released CAL-EMSA recommendations on patient tracking as a starting point.

Behavioral Health Update

Per Stayce: DHHS-Mental Health recently had a minor in their Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) who could not be around other children, and being a minor, could also not be housed with adults. A minor committed suicide at McKinleyville High School. In light of both of these events, Stayce arranged for Mental Health to contact Dr. Parks at St. Joseph Hospital to allow minors from McKinleyville who may be experiencing a mental health crisis due to the suicide to come to St. Joseph's ER instead of DHHS-Mental Health. Mental Health will send four crisis workers to the hospital to perform evaluations. The hospital will check in the minors as possible 5150s. Dr. Neuger expressed concern over a possible influx of minors to St. Joseph because they are already busy. She suggested sending them to another ER. Per Sean: Mad River Hospital is also too busy to take such an influx. Stayce mentioned Humboldt County is currently reviewing the draft proposal, which would codify that minors experiencing a mental health crisis be sent to the closest hospital. Hospital representatives expressed they do not have enough beds for additional 5150 minors, and often they have 5150s staying for days because Sempervirens does not have room for them. Stayce stated that hospital ER doctors were on the committee that helped draft the proposal, and that Sempervirens is only allowed to stabilize minors, not treat them. When a minor enters CSU, Mental Health must halt all adults from coming in to CSU until the minor is transferred out. Stayce supports keeping minors locally instead of transferring them out of county. Dr. Bayan does not believe the new county proposal on minors will result in an influx to hospitals.

Dr. Bayan gave an update on Waterfront Recovery Services. Several documents related to Waterfront were distributed. Per Dr. Bayan: Waterfront's Drug Medi-Cal plan was approved, but they will not be able to implement it yet until the Department of Health Care Services develops a way to oversee the project. Dr. Bayan anticipates they will be able to begin accepting drug Medi-Cal patients in September. Waterfront will be obliged to take patients from outside of Humboldt County, and Dr. Bayan believes they will see an influx of patients. The out of area agency that initiates admitting a patient to Waterfront is responsible for the patient through the entire process, including transporting them back. Waterfront is

now working to establish in Humboldt County a crisis treatment center with a sobering station, and has reached out to stakeholders such as hospitals, law enforcement, and Mental Health. A meeting with stakeholders is set for 05/28/19, 4-6:00pm. If such a center were established, Dr. Bayan believes less 5150s will end up going to hospital ERs. Per Stayce: For other existing sobering stations around the nation, when an intoxicated person is arrested, they have the option of going to that sobering station instead of jail. Per Dr. Bayan: Waterfront was unable to establish the site they were hoping to get, across the street from the Serenity Inn. They are now working with the EPD on securing another site.

Advanced EMT Update

Per Ron: Del Norte Ambulance is reviewing current policies related to advanced EMT (around twenty) which Kayce will then submit to NCEMS's policy review committee.

Trauma and STEMI Program Updates

Per Larry: The HCCC meeting will begin at 10:30am. The TAC meeting will begin after lunch at 1:30pm. At the last JPA meeting, annual trauma center fees were approved. Mad River and St. Joseph Hospitals will each pay \$15,000. Sutter Coast and Sutter Lakeside will each pay \$5,000. NCEMS's target of \$40,000 has been met to fund Rita's contract position as Trauma Nurse. Larry will send invoices to hospitals in the next two weeks. He will also work on amending Mad River and St. Joseph's contract to extend them for another year. Per Larry: The State has adopted new STEMI, EMSC and Stroke regulations that will help this region move forward on creating a stroke system.

CCT Update – nothing new to report.

Lake County Concerns Update

Per Larry: The CAO's and Public Health Directors of Lake, Mendocino, and Sonoma Counties met with Coastal Valley EMS to discuss Lake County joining them. Sonoma County cannot take on a third county in their LEMSA at this time. NCEMS still is committed to resolving Lake County's issues, but is still open to assessing a possible merger with Coastal Valley if so directed.

Health Information Exchange Grant

Per Larry: NCEMS will not apply for the grant at this time because he believes they have little chance of receiving funding due to the high number of other agencies also applying.

CMCI Patient Management Principles

Tom discussed the CMCI project he is working on. He intends to incorporate NCEMS policies into the CMCI protocol. He distributed version five of the protocol to members. Dr. Neuger wanted the protocol to state that patients with traumatic injuries, such as a gunshot wound to the torso, must first be treated in a local hospital ER. They will die if transferred out of the county without going to an ER. Per Tom/Larry: Her concerns are currently reflected in NCEMS policy. Tom discussed changes from versions four to five. Under items 8, he added language reflecting existing trauma centers. Under item 10, Tom updated air transport to reflect NCEMS policy that states any first responder in the field can initiate air transport process. Under item 13, Dan Brattain suggested updates that reflect the pilot's authority on patient transportation. On item 16, Jaison suggested moving the reference marker for "Use ground transport as appropriate" in the right-hand box to "Transport majority of critical ('red') patients to closest Trauma Centers, where staff may stabilize patients", in the left-hand box. Tom also inserted various clarifications in several other items. If members have more thoughts on the protocol, contact him. He hopes V.6 will be the final version. Kari is concerned that the protocol as currently written is different from NCEMS policy. She does not want two different policies on patient transportation. Per Larry: The two policies should not conflict by time the County adopts the CMCI. NCEMS policy may need updating. Per Dr. Neuger: Under an MCI, one of the two trauma-designated hospitals should set up an Incident Command Center to decide where patients are sent and how many. Per Doug: The current MCI plan would only need an update stating that under an MCI, the coordinating base hospital should be the trauma center with jurisdiction.

3. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

4. NCEMS REPORT

Per Larry: Emily Johnson, NCEMS's Administrative Assistant, has resigned. While her last day was officially on 04/10/19, she will continue to assist NCEMS part-time until they hire a permanent assistant. They will have a temporary assistant in place until then. Larry introduced Dr. Karp, their new Medical Director. Dr. Karp discussed his background. He currently works at Sutter Lakeside. He is training fire departments EMTs and paramedics on I-Gel. He is also involved with STEMI. Larry gave information on a satellite communications program for Ambulances that he found at the last EMSAAC conference to Jaison, Doug, and Ron. A discussion ensued on Roger's Peak. The repeater is no longer working. Per Doug: Wayne Shaw, RWS, suggested removing the working parts from Roger's and no longer having a repeater there. Ambulance staff can access about 80% of the "dead zone" in northern Humboldt that Roger's was needed for by using cell phones instead. Doug did not ask Wayne if the MCI repeater could be turned into the substitute repeater for Roger's Peak. Larry believes this is possible, and other members agreed this was a good idea. Per Kayce: The next Policy Review Committee meeting is 05/28/19 at 1:30pm. She will send out a draft of the policy review process. The committee revised and posted as final the med net communication protocol. The committee did not revise the destination determination policy. Kayce revised the standing order policy, but she may not send it out yet. The committee is also looking at the equipment list for paramedics and EMTs. The committee has new draft policies on EPI and morphine, but now will wait for the new Medical Director to review and give his opinions. Per Larry: NCEMS is updating the MAC mailing list. He asked members to check the list to ensure that appropriate members of their organizations are on the list.

5. EMS LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Per Jaison: AB26, which would require body armor for EMTs and paramedics, has been delayed into a two-year bill. AB27, requiring a mental health worker be specially trained in dealing with EMS-related post-traumatic stress disorders if an EMT or paramedic has to use their services, is also now a two-year bill. AB921, the 5150 transport bill, is not dead as he reported; it is now a two-year bill. SB438, related to community paramedicine, is moving forward. It has been revised, but Jaison and Larry still oppose the bill. Doug sent his comments on the proposed changes to state paramedic regulations to Larry, who forwarded them to EMSAC.

6. FACILITY REPORTS

DHHS-Public Health—Ryan introduced Sofia Pereira, the new Administrative Analyst/HPP Coordinator for the Emergency Preparedness program. Ryan will send out ambulance license renewal packets to ambulance companies next week.

CAL ORE/REACH—Per Joe: They switched to Zoll ventilators on all their air ambulances. They are planning demonstrations of their new H125 helicopter, which is in service in Brookings. It is faster than their 407, and has a larger fuel load, meaning it can travel from Eureka to Santa Rosa or from Crescent City to Portland without refueling.

Mad River Hospital—Per Sean: They will hold a field care audit 05/09/19, 12:00-2:00pm.

St. Joseph Hospital—Per Kari: On 05/24/19, they will host two "Stop the Bleed" classes. Kari may add a third class because the first two are already filling up.

Redwood Memorial Hospital—Per Pam: This month's field care audit was canceled.

Del Norte Ambulance—Per Ron: Their bariatric unit is not getting as many calls as last month. It is

available as needed. They have entered into a working agreement with Metro West Ambulance to determine if Metro West can help them provide better administrative and operational services. They will go before the Del Norte Board of Supervisors regarding their EMS Week presentation. They are using I-Gel and are ensuring their staff are following best practices. Former Crescent City Fire Chief Steve Wakefield passed away earlier this month. Services were held on 05/04/19.

City Ambulance—Per Jaison: Nothing to report.

Arcata Mad River Ambulance—Per Doug: The CHP will inspect their new bariatric unit tomorrow.

7. Next Meeting: June 12, 2019, 9:00am at Redwood Memorial Hospital, Renner Room