

MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the June 12, 2019 meeting held at Redwood Memorial 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
Tim Howard	DHHS—Public Health
Ron Sandler, EMT-P	Del Norte Ambulance
Tim Novatny	Del Norte Ambulance
Paula Schneider, RN	Jerold Phelps Hospital
Kayce Hurd, EMT-P	North Coast EMS
Larry Karsteadt	North Coast EMS
Andy Billings, RN	Redwood Memorial Hospital
Elizabeth Wardell, RN	Redwood Memorial Hospital/North Coast EMS
Brandon Klith, RN	St. Joseph Hospital
Kari Vandiver, RN	St. Joseph Hospital
Thomas Dewey	Sheriff's Office

Via Phone:

Sean Anderson, RN	Mad River Hospital
Matthew Karp, MD	North Coast EMS
Rita Henderson, RN	North Coast EMS
Dennis Louy	NCEMS/Del Norte
Tracie Conner, RN	St. Joseph Hospital

1. INTRODUCTIONS/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The 05/08/19 meeting minutes were approved.

2. OLD BUSINESS

Paramedic Program Update

Per Doug: At College of the Redwoods, the program has officially transitioned to Administrative Justice. The program received accreditation clearance for all progress reports, and is accredited until 2023. Twenty students passed the final exam and are eligible for field internship. Yesterday the state released the second round of proposed paramedic regulations for fifteen-day public comment. The state removed their proposal for new prerequisite courses for paramedics. Flight paramedic regulations were made equivalent to those of a critical care paramedic. Per Larry: The state added language stating paramedic students will be required to provide the full continuum of care, beginning with initial contact to arrival to a hospital, for at least half the ALS patient contacts.

Infectious Disease Report

Per Dr. Baird: Measles cases are still rising (almost 1,000 cases in the U.S.). There are no reported measles cases in Humboldt County, but there are cases in nearby counties. If anyone has not caught measles, or does not know, they should get a titer or a measles booster. Syphilis cases are still rising. Of great concern is congenital/perinatal exposures. Many OB/GYNs have never seen a case of syphilis. The screening test for syphilis often gives false positives in the first trimester, so expectant mothers need a second confirmatory test. TB is increasing in rural areas, particularly among the homeless. While there have been no outbreaks locally, we are at risk. Recently, a foreign exchange student living in a dorm with other foreign exchange students at a local high school was diagnosed

with TB. Public Health's Lab will be able to conduct PCR confirmation for TB by the end of the year. Per Paula: Recently, Jerold Phelps had a likely case of chicken pox. They have sent bloodwork out for confirmation. Per Dr. Baird: Humboldt County has the second worst immunization rate in the state (four percent un-immunized). Title 17 has a list of diseases it requires hospitals to report to Public Health. Public Health is narrowing down the list to diseases that are most serious and most likely (ex. measles and Hep A). They will share that list with hospitals and NCEMS. Louis wants a formalized mechanism to provide notification to NCEMS and the EMS community of communicable disease incidents. Dr. Baird asked for this issue to be put on the next JPA agenda. Per Dr. Baird: Public Health, in coordination with the California Department of Public Health, will begin a drive to immunize as many of the county's homeless population as possible for a variety of diseases, especially Hep A. Per Dr. Baird: All Health Officers now have the authority to prevent people with communicable diseases from boarding a plane. If the patient has already scheduled a flight and has a communicable disease (even the flu), Dr. Baird will write a statement for the patient to take to the airline to get their ticket refunded.

HPP Medical Disaster Project Update

Per Elizabeth: Paramedics are tagging Mad River and St. Joseph Hospital's patients with triage tags. Redwood Memorial has not begun participating. Per Jaison: City Ambulance will begin tagging their patients next month. Elizabeth has been unable to meet with Jerold Phelps to discuss triage tags. Per Doug: Ambulance providers in Humboldt County submitted an HPP funding request for four hundred triage tags. Per Louis: NCEMS has purchased five hundred triage tags through HPP as well. The Ambulance Companies and NCEMS will discuss how to distribute the new tags NCEMS purchased. Per Ron: Del Norte Ambulance has a lot of old triage tags and will try to use them up during the triage trainings. On "Triage Tuesdays", ambulance personnel will tag all trauma patients, regardless of destination. Triage Tuesdays take place on the 1st thru the 4th of each month.

Elizabeth is working on guidelines for infectious disease patients. She believes isolating patients after obtaining as much up-front information related to their potential illness is very important. Currently, there are no paramedic guidelines for interviewing patients. Doug suggested making cards for ambulance personnel that instruct them what to ask if a patient has various symptoms. Dr. Baird does not want ambulance personnel to have to remember too many questions. His most important question for the patient is where they have traveled in the last thirty days. He also urged making note of the patient's symptoms to give to the hospital. Per Tim: The state CAHAN team sends communicable disease related alerts, but ambulance/EMS personal probably do not receive them. Tim offered to forward such alerts. Per Doug: Ambulance providers in Humboldt County submitted an HPP funding request for PPE suits, respirator fit testing, and "train the trainer" fit testing. Elizabeth is stepping down as Humboldt County's Disaster Liaison for NCEMS. NCEMS will send out a contract announcement for the position. Larry asked members to forward the information to anyone they know who would be interested in the position. Per Louis: The state has sent out the HPP multi-county work plan template; it has not changed from the previous year. Dennis thanked Del Norte County's EOC and NCEMS for purchasing triage tags for Del Norte. They will begin Triage Tuesdays once the tags arrive. Med-Sleds ordered for Crescent City's skilled nursing facility have arrived. Their staff will be trained on using them within the next two weeks. On 06/20/19, Del Norte OES will stage a mass care and shelter tabletop from 10:00am-2:00pm at the Crescent City Fire Station. There are plans to stage a severe weather and evacuation tabletop at Sutter Coast. Kymmie Scott is the new EOC Manager for Del Norte. The County is considering hiring a program manager to oversee the PHEP, HPP, and Pan Flu grants--currently overseen by the EOC Manager.

Behavioral Health Update

Per Larry: Nothing new to report.

Advanced EMT Update

Ron gave Kayce the rest of the draft policies for Advanced EMT. He believes there is a need for Advanced EMTs in the more rural areas of the region. Del Norte Ambulance representatives presented to the Del Norte Board of Supervisors their goals for an Advanced EMT program.

Trauma and STEMI Program Updates

Per Larry: The state Trauma Regulatory Writing Group is updating the state's trauma standards. Larry will send a summary of their first meeting to update trauma to Trauma Advisory Committee (TAC) members in the region. The new standards will take two to three years to be completed. The state has streamlined trauma regulations for hospitals. The new regulations will now require all level 1, 2, and 3 trauma centers to be ACS verified. St. Joseph Hospital is not verified. They will likely have three to five years to become ACS-verified. Level 4 trauma centers have other criteria. NCEMS evaluated Mad River Hospital for those criteria, as well as their level 3 commitment to surgery. NCEMS ordered the ACS book ("Orange Book") for all trauma centers. At the last JPA meeting, hospital trauma fees were settled. Payments are due from hospitals to NCEMS on 06/21/19. Per Rita: The Regional Trauma Coordinating Committee met in May at Crescent City, and will meet again in Chico on 09/13/19. The Humboldt-Del Norte TAC convened last month, and will meet again on 08/14/19. They discussed asking Lake County to join, so there would be only one TAC for the region. Rita will poll the HDN TAC on adding Lake County. NCEMS is working to export trauma data from all four trauma hospitals to the state trauma registry (due on 06/30/19). Sutter Coast Hospital has a site survey for their trauma program scheduled for 11/14/19. NCEMS will participate. NCEMS is attempting to bring a Rural Trauma Training class to this region this year.

Larry discussed the last Humboldt Cardiac Coordinating Committee (CCC) meeting. The meeting focused on securing funding to ensure 12-lead EKG field connections to hospitals. The state has adopted new first-time STEMI regulations, new stroke regulations, and new EMS for Children regulations. Larry believes that due to the collective input from the North Coast, all these regulations are favorable to this area.

CCT Update

Per Joe: Cal-Ore's transport agreement with City Ambulance is yielding positive results. They have performed ten to twelve patient interventions since the agreement.

CMCI Patient Management Principles

Tom explained the new Criminal Multi-Casualty Incident protocols he has helped create. State law mandates counties create standardized protocols for police, fire departments, and EMS personnel to follow in first four to eight hours of a CMCI, such as an active shooter. One challenge for Tom was to ensure the protocol matches the 2004 NCEMS MCI protocol. He distributed the section of the protocol on patient transportation, which he re-wrote after the input of many medical stakeholders. He believes this version may be the final version. He asked MAC members to contact him if they have questions/concerns. He emphasized the CMCI protocol is a guideline, not a hard rule. Tom will also help train those agencies on the protocol. The next trainings are scheduled for 06/19/19 and, 06/26/19, which are an introduction to CMCI, and 06/24/19, which is a real-time mass shooter exercise with role-playing. Tom is planning higher level trainings, specifically for law enforcement. Arcata Mad River Ambulance has agreed to help teach advanced concepts on running a treatment area, and transportation functions. Per Kari: Will these trainings involve communications with the hospitals? Tom is open to adding this to his trainings, if someone from another entity (NCEMS, an ambulance company) would take on the task.

Triage Tag Update

Discussed earlier in the meeting. Nothing new to add.

Radio Reports (added back to the agenda)

Per Doug: There is still misunderstanding over when and what type of radio reports EMTs are to give to hospitals if they conduct a patient bypass. For several months, if a patient wants to go to St. Joseph instead of Mad River Hospital, Arcata Ambulance EMTs have been giving brief reports to Mad River and a full report to St. Joseph. At times, Mad River has not called St. Joseph in those occasions. Doug's ambulance crews have informed him that St. Joseph wants Mad River to call them to inform them of the patient bypass. Kari and Tracie stated St. Joseph prefers getting a phone call from Mad River when there is a patient bypass, and that MAC did not decide Mad River did not have to call them anymore. They want to know which physician at Mad River approves the bypass. MAC members agreed Mad River should provide this information to St. Joseph, as this is already NCEMS policy.

3. NEW BUSINESS

Unified Scope of Practice

Louis distributed a document outlining the new unified scope of practice. Per Louis: All transport providers have been lobbying the state to expand the scope of practice for paramedics on air transports. The state has agreed to their proposals. LEMSAs now need request of the EMDAC Scope of Practice Committee to allow air providers who meet the criteria within the program to start providing this expanded scope. Paramedics will need to be trained/retrained and need to work with a qualified nurse partner. If the criteria is in place, paramedics on air transports will be able to perform several new services, as outlined in the document. Doug wondered what ground paramedic are now allowed to do/not do, due to this new scope. Doug also expressed that if a nurse partner who can also perform the same procedures must accompany paramedics, the new scope seems pointless. Per Joe: The new scope will be beneficial to air paramedics because they will be able to assist the nurse in procedures they currently are unable to perform. Per Louis: Because LEMSAs have different rules on what procedures paramedics can perform, the unified scope ensures the paramedics are working within their scope no matter which LEMSA region they fly into.

4. NCEMS REPORT

Per Larry: NCEMS has hired a new Administrative Assistant, Nicole Mobley. She has revised the MAC and TAC mailing lists. If members still find errors, or want someone from their agency added, contact Nicole. Dr. Karp is working on case reviews and inter-facility transfer issues for Lake County. NCEMS's Fiscal Manager is on leave, so Wendy Chapman is taking on some of those duties. The next JPA meeting is on 06/27/19, 10:30am at the NCEMS office. The meeting will address budget, contract, and fee issues. Lake County is still considering joining another LEMSA. They approached Sonoma/Mendocino, but Sonoma is unable to add them to their LEMSA. Ron requested MAC members in Humboldt and Del Norte receive Lake's EMCC minutes, in order to better understand their issues and activities. Larry approves, and will make those minutes available to other MAC members. Per Larry: Providers have paid the Image Trend bills for the first six months of this year. NCEMS will soon send volume information for the third quarter, and will invoice the providers. The state has given NCEMS permission to establish Exclusive Operating Areas to Arcata Mad River and City Ambulance. NCEMS hired Pam Mather as the new EOA Oversight Manager; she starts in July. Dr. Backer, head of the state EMS Authority, is retiring. NCEMS will soon finalize the contract with CAL-ORE/REACH to cover all three counties. Per Louis: NCEMS sent requests to PCNCs to fill out contact information and requests for hospital national identifier numbers, which they need in order to initiate CARES registry in this region. Sean and Tracie indicated they received the requests. Louis distributed copies of several policy revisions from the Policy Review Committee. Regarding push dose epinephrine, Kayce will discuss with Dr. Karp and Louis whether the policy on dosage amounts should be the same as the dosage for anaphylaxis. She also wants to discuss making several medications optional for agencies to carry. Kayce revised the public comment policy. Policies are open to public comment for twenty days. If there were significant comments, they would be addressed within fifteen days, and the policy would go back out for further review. Kayce tried to model the

revised comments policy on Sierra-Sacramento EMS policy. It is important for NCEMS to allow the public to make comments in person, by email, and by calling into meetings. Humboldt Bay Fire asked Kayce if the committee could change their equipment list policies to allow non-transporting ALS entities to have different equipment lists from transporting ALS entities, so they would not have to carry unnecessary medication. Per Larry: The Medical Director can approve removing specific medication from being mandatory through a waiver process. Kayce will finish updating the equipment list after having discussions with Tim Citro, Humboldt Bay Fire. Louis wants at least one representative from each county to participate during the Policy Review Committee meetings. AB1299 would require any federal funding for firefighters working on BLM land to be given directly to the firefighter, bypassing the fire department the firefighter works for. This would affect small volunteer fire departments who use part of those reimbursements for their own funding. SB438 would eliminate LEMSA's control over how and when fire departments respond, and how call routing works for 911 calls. The bill passed the Senate. Per Larry: NCEMS will probably ask MAC members for letters of opposition to all those bills.

5. EMS LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Per Jaison: AB1544, which would allow transportation to alternate destinations, increase the size of the EMS Commission by two, and gives oversight to a local committee that could overlap with the EMCC, and have some control of a community paramedicine program. It passed the Assembly and has now moved to the Senate. Jaison believes this section of the bill would erode a LEMSA's control over community paramedicine.

6. FACILITY REPORTS

Del Norte Ambulance—Per Ron: They responded to an incident last week at Alder Conservation Camp. At this incident, CAL-FIRE activated their helicopters in contradiction to NCEMS policy. They will meet with CAL-FIRE to clarify the policy with them. Recently, the CHP also activated for an incident in contradiction to NCEMS policy. Ron believes this is happening because of language in NCEMS protocol allows for contacting CAL-FIRE dispatch in Fortuna directly. Ron wants agencies responding to incidents in Del Norte to contact the Del Norte County Sheriff's Office. Larry believes current policy is worded correctly to prevent this from happening, and wants Ron to send him the specific policy that he believes is worded incorrectly. Ron wanted to dispel a rumor that Metro West has purchased Del Norte Ambulance. The two companies have only entered into a working agreement to address Del Norte's administrative and operational services. Representatives from Del Norte Ambulance presented to the Board of Supervisors for EMS week. Next week, they are conducting a tabletop drill.

Jerold Phelps Hospital—Per Paula: They purchased the former College of the Redwoods campus in Garberville. They plan to turn the property into a Senior Life Solutions facility. It will house 10-15 elderly patients with depression, anxiety, or related illnesses. They have hired an RN, an LCSW, and a telehealth psychiatrist. The facility will operate 3-5 days per week. Their CT scan now had full accreditation. They are getting a new C-Arm and a bedside ultrasound machine. They have hired an ultrasound tech who will work 3-5 days per month. Paula is qualified to perform ultrasound peripherals, and will begin teaching the doctors and nurses how to do them. Jerold Phelps's laboratory is the only one in the county which is COLA certified. They have hired a new clinic physician, Dr. Seth Einterz.

St. Joseph Hospital—Per Kari: Last month's Stop the Bleed class went very well. Representatives from Children's hospital in Oakland will visit St. Joseph sometime between September and October. Lynn Perkins, Direct of the ED and the CATH Lab, is resigning.

Redwood Memorial Hospital—Andy introduced himself as the new ER Manager. He is helping fill in for Pam Collver, who is out on leave, as PCNC (along with Heather Parks and Elizabeth). Redwood

Memorial is using EDAP resources to help bolster their pediatric trainings in the area.

CAL ORE/REACH—Per Joe: They have started the permitting process to place a ground CCT unit in Del Norte and Lake Counties. They are also attaching CCT units to various bases in Oregon and California.

City Ambulance—Per Jaison: They held a meeting with a number of stakeholders to discuss STAR Ambulance transports. STAR is understaffed, and is finding it difficult to travel to St. Joseph Hospital. City Ambulance offered to increase the number of rendezvous they conduct with STAR. City Ambulance is increasing their responses in Trinity County. To try to decrease these responses, they are attempting to improve coordination with air ambulance in Trinity during the summer. Five of City Ambulance's paramedics are out on leave, meaning they have been frequently unable to keep a fourth crew staffed in Eureka. They had a meeting with the Eureka Police Department, NCEMS, and Humboldt Bay Fire to discuss assisting the EPD, because the EPD is feeling overburdened with the EMD system. Due to the EMD system, all calls from the Sheriff's Department for an area of Eureka that used to come directly to City Ambulance now go to the EPD. City Ambulance has offered to take back some of those calls. Per Larry: NCEMS approved the EPDs request to work with City Ambulance and Humboldt Bay Fire to reduce their calls.

DHHS-Public Health—Tim: Nothing to report.

Mad River Hospital—Per Sean: Their field care audit is today at 12:30. They will review intraosseous. Next month's field care audit will be in collaboration with the Coast Guard discussing helicopter hot loading.

Arcata Mad River Ambulance—Per Doug: They have a new part-time paramedic, and will hire a new EMT. They now have thirteen paramedics and two EMTs.

7. Next Meeting: July 10, 2019, 10:00am at Sutter Coast Hospital (note: This meeting was canceled. The next meeting will be August 14th at Mad River Hospital, Minkler Room, followed by the Trauma Advisory Committee meeting.)