

# MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the August 14, 2019 meeting held at Mad River 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
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
Matthew Karp, MD	North Coast EMS
Andy Billings, RN	Redwood Memorial Hospital
Pamela Collver, RN	Redwood Memorial Hospital
Tracie Conner, RN	St. Joseph Hospital
Brandon Klith, RN	St. Joseph Hospital

## **Via Phone:**

Scott French, MD	Mad River Hospital
Peri Penman, DO	Mad River Hospital
Rita Henderson, RN	North Coast EMS
Dennis Louy	NCEMS/Del Norte

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

The 06/12/19 meeting minutes were approved.

## **2. OLD BUSINESS**

### **Paramedic Program Update**

Per Doug: Twenty students from the last program entered field internships in May. Three have completed their internships and will take the Capstone test next weekend. The next program will begin 08/24/19. Thirty students are enrolled with no waiting list. The program is now under the Administration of Justice department at College of the Redwoods. The next North Coast Paramedic Program Advisory Committee meeting will take place at October's MAC meeting. Doug hopes Ron Watters, head of Administration of Justice, will attend.

### **Infectious Disease Report (including update of plan to develop an "Infectious Disease Reminder" card for prehospital personnel).**

Ryan gave a report on the Ricin incident at Pelican Bay State Prison on 07/23/19. Humboldt County Public Health's Lab tested the suspicious powder, which was delivered to the prison via mail in an envelope. Public Health representatives attended two After Action Reviews (AAR) for the incident. Communication was determined to be the biggest issue. All the different jurisdiction levels involved contributed to communication problems. No one was injured, but the exposed individuals were not properly decontaminated. Per Ron: Because of the improper decon attempt, Del Norte needed to track those individuals for several days to ensure they did not show any symptoms. Del Norte Ambulance

contacted other ambulance companies to see if ambulances were available to help with potential transports, but fortunately, no patients needed transport. Ryan urged hospitals and other agencies under EMS to review their policies and procedures on bioterrorism, HAZMAT, and personal protective equipment (PPE). Per Louis: For a future incident such as this, EMS providers should immediately contact their County's Medical Health and Operational Area (MHOAC) program. Per Tim C: If such an incident happens in Humboldt or Del Norte County, also contact Humboldt Bay Fire, because they have HAZMAT specialists on call. Dr. Baird met with the Humboldt County Sheriff's department yesterday to discuss the incident and strategies for a "copy-cat" incident in Humboldt. He believes that, based on his relationship with Sheriff Honsal, Humboldt would not have the communications problems in that occurred in Del Norte during a similar incident.

Per Dr. Baird: California is overdue for a pertussis outbreak. There are two or three unrelated confirmed cases this month in Humboldt County. He urged everyone to get a Tdap vaccine. A local provider reported a case of dengue fever. Dengue fever is a mosquito-borne disease and not contagious from human to human. Dr. Baird has seen many cases of "exotic diseases" reported in Humboldt County during his tenure. Measles cases are on the rise throughout the United States, largely due to anti-vaccine sentiment. Dr. Baird recommends people get an MMR vaccine, or ensure they are immune by getting a titer.

Regarding the proposed infectious disease reminder card, Louis suggested NCEMS's future Humboldt County Liaison be tasked with creating, revising, and distributing the card.

### **HPP Medical Disaster Project Updates**

Per Louis: NCEMS is still trying to find a replacement for Elizabeth Wardell, who recently stepped down as Humboldt County's Disaster Liaison. Per Dennis: NCEMS recently held a Med Sled training at Crescent City's skilled nursing facility, and a tabletop at Sutter Coast Hospital with the scenario being an evacuation after losing all available water for their site.

### **Behavioral Health Update**

Per Larry: Stayce Curry, NCEMS Behavioral Health Contractor, has created a 5150 medical training algorithm, which NCEMS reviewed yesterday. Larry spoke favorably of the algorithm and stated NCEMS will likely introduce it to providers before the next MAC meeting.

### **Advanced EMT Update**

Per Ron: Del Norte Ambulance is developing a scope of practice policy to give to the NCEMS Policy Committee for review, also with the other policies they have created/revised.

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

Per Larry: St. Joseph and Mad River Hospitals have paid their trauma fees. NCEMS has amended their contracts with both hospitals. Other trauma issues will be deferred to the upcoming TAC meeting.

The state approved new regulations for STEMI and EMS for Children. They will take effect on 01/01/20. NCEMS will need to revise their existing STEMI and EMS for Children policies once the state implements those new regulations. Larry believes this region is already mostly compliant with the new state standards.

### **CCT Update**

Per Joe: The new CCT program is working well. If the high call volume continues, CAL-ORE may hire an extra nurse for CCT. CAL-ORE uses their flight crew in Humboldt for CCT, if available. Per Doug: Yesterday, a patient in an isolette was flown from Mad River to St. Joseph hospital. Doug inquired if St. Joseph still had its older Stryker isolette system (Mad River does not have one), and if the hospital would allow it to be used for transfers. He wants to avoid such air transfers as mentioned above. Joe cautioned that the isolette must still be certified and properly maintained. Tracie will look into whether it can be used and loaned out.

### **CMCI Patient Management Principles**

Per Doug: There have been many trainings on the new CMCI management principles. He believes the new CMCI protocol is being rolled out successfully. Next month the Blue Lake Resiliency Training and Innovation Center (RTIC) will host a three-day MCI training for fire, EMS, and law enforcement personnel. Arcata Mad River Ambulance will assign two ambulances to the third day. Per Tim C: Tom Dewey is close to finalizing the CMCI plan. Tom's goal is to get all hospitals, fire departments, law enforcement agencies, and ambulance companies to sign on to the protocol. In response, Humboldt Bay Fire plans to start holding "stop the bleed" classes for the public. Ryan offered to help facilitate the trainings. Public Health has Stop the Bleed kits for trainings.

### **Triage Tags**

Tracie is working on the project. Triage Tuesday did not occur in August. Tom Dewey reached out to several stakeholders to get feedback on what type of triage tags they would prefer; the decision was to purchase a simply designed, low-cost style of tag by Disaster Management Systems (DMS).

## **3. NEW BUSINESS**

### **Policy Review Committee and Public Comment Policy Status**

Per Larry: The Policy Review Committee now has a policy on public comment. Per Louis: If any entity wants to be part of the Policy Review Committee, they must inform NCEMS at least two weeks prior to the next committee meeting. Committee members will have two weeks to review policies and submit comments. At the committee meeting, attendees will review the comments and attempt to come to a consensus. If the committee comes to a consensus on a policy, it will be considered finalized and sent to the Executive Director and Medical Director for approval. The Directors can then decide to either sign the policies or send them back to the committee for further review. Louis encourages more entities to participate in the committee. Kayce and Nicole Mobley are working on putting the revised policies on the website. There is a lag time from policy approval to the policy being put on the website. Reasons include formatting issues with older documents and outdated headers and links. Kayce believes that by the end of the year the website will be significantly more accurate.

### **Del Norte County Air Medical Dispatch Procedure Review**

Larry clarified the procedure. In Del Norte, for a ground medical response, the Sheriff's Office dispatches Del North Ambulance. For an air medical response, they contact CAL-FIRE in Fortuna. Per Ron: At recent on-scene incidents, other agencies joining in have been setting up their own Landing Zones (LZ) at different places than what was set up through the Sheriff's Office and CAL-FIRE. There was a discussion and disagreement over how often the Sheriff has contacted CAL-FIRE for air resources. Members agreed that multiple agencies on scene at an incident need to follow the rules of the Incident Command Structure (ICS), such as having a unified command and having only the Incident Commander request resources. Members mentioned difficulties working with the CHP because they have their own air medical system and paramedics, and that their radios cannot communicate with other air and ground medical services in Del Norte (they now can communicate with the Sheriff's Office). There was discussion on revising the wording of the NCEMS policies on air medical dispatch. Louis wants to ensure that all agencies who participate in the process of air medical dispatch are represented in the policy revision decisions. Ron mentioned that when he has discussed the current policy with those agencies, they understand the importance of following the policy. Louis asked Ron to keep Dennis Louy informed of his discussions so Dennis can report back to NCEMS.

## **4. NCEMS REPORT**

Per Larry: They have contracted with Pam Mather to be the EOA Oversight Officer, and she will be meeting with Doug and Jaison in the near future to review the next steps in the EOA process.

## 5. EMS LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Per Jaison: SB560 would require PG&E to notify all first responders, hospitals, and clinics if they have a planned power outage. PG&E contends they are already making such notifications, thus the bill is unnecessary. Several amendments have been submitted to this bill. SB438 would remove some power LEMSAs have to designate a fire department as an ALS provider, and restrict which agencies can provide dispatch services for EMS agencies. AB1544 addresses Community Paramedicine. The bill would take some power away from LEMSAs ability to develop a Community Paramedicine program for their area. Per Larry: SB438 is unnecessary and could be very costly to implement for some communities in California. AB1544 would create unnecessary and costly rules that could actually hamper implementation of Community Paramedicine programs. Larry believes that it will be very difficult for North Coast to implement a Community Paramedicine program if this bill passes. Per Jaison: The California Ambulance Association opposes AB1544 and are reconsidering SB438 due to the many amendments that have recently been added.

## 6. FACILITY AND PROVIDER REPORTS

City Ambulance—Per Jaison: Last month they had their highest call volume in history. Many of the calls are coming from the Eureka Rescue Mission. The local Super-Utilizer Group and other agencies are working with the Mission to decrease the call volume. City Ambulance is also experiencing high requests for out of area transfers, many at night. As a result, their staff do not want to volunteer on their fourth crew (which was created to address transfers). City Ambulance is trying to direct as many of the out of area transports to air services as possible, and requesting transports that must go by ground do so in the morning instead of night. Per Jaison: Many of the transports are psychiatric in nature. Tracie agreed St. Joseph is receiving high call volumes for psychiatric transfers. They need to transfer most psychiatric patients out of the area because they do not have the resources to help them. Tracie asks St. Joseph staff to try to request out of area ground transfers in the morning instead of at night, and pushes air transfer as a first option. The hospital ER resists sometimes because they believe a patient should be transferred out immediately. Per Joe: Sometimes CAL-ORE gets calls to transfer a patient late at night when it is not safe. Per Larry: Transfer volume is a growing statewide problem for rural areas. Stakeholders in Lake County met on Monday to discuss how to improve their transfer processes.

Humboldt Bay Fire—Per Tim C: They have not yet received any state OES requests for local strike teams to fight fires. One of their firefighters will start their paramedic internship in the next week.

Del Norte Ambulance—Per Ron: They also had their highest call volume in history last month. Charles Tweed is working on getting their fourth unit operating full time. One of their paramedic students is still working on his internship.

DHHS-Public Health Emergency Preparedness—Per Ryan: The Emergency Preparedness Program is working on grant reporting and work plans.

Mad River Hospital—Per Tina: Their new ER physicians group is Valley Emergency Physicians. This transition is going smoothly. Dr. Scott French is their interim ER Medical Director. Their new ER Medical Director will be Dr. Peri Penman. Per Sean: Dr. Penman will also be Mad River's PCMD. Mad River is holding a field care audit today featuring Beth Larson from HSU's concussion center.

St. Joseph Hospital—Per Tracie: They will hold a field care audit next month on ethics and suicide. Tina will present a case from Mad River of a patient with a DNR who attempted suicide. Louis requested the hospitals provide feedback to NCEMS on possible policies regarding suicide. Due to the success of Tracie's recent "Kevlar for the mind" classes, St. Joseph is now in the process of adopting the class for all hospital staff. On 09/08/19 from 12:00-4:00, St. Joseph ER will hold a BBQ at Carson Park in Eureka in appreciation for EMS providers. They had over seven hundred EMS calls last month.

Redwood Memorial Hospital—Per Brandan: Representatives from Children's Hospital in Oakland are coming to Redwood Memorial in October to conduct case reviews related to trauma. He invited members to attend, and if anyone has a case they would like to review, let him know.

CAL-ORE/REACH—Per Joe: They have a new ambulance in service. They now staff five ambulances 24/7, all of which have Lucas devices. Curry General Hospital has funding to open a new ER in Brookings. It will be a stand-alone ER with three beds and will open within thirty to sixty days

Arcata Mad River Ambulance—Per Doug: They also had their highest July call volume in history last month, and also visited the Eureka Rescue Mission. Their new unit will go in service, pending a CHP inspection, within the next week. Tonight they will participate in an annual exercise at HSU to train residence hall staff. The scenario will be a fire. Mad River Hospital will also participate in the communications portion of the event. Arcata Ambulance will take the opportunity to remind the residence hall staff that ambulances will most likely have to visit the dorms throughout the year, and remind them to open the locked gates so ambulance personnel can get in.

**7. Next Meeting: September 11, 2019, 9:00am at St. Joseph Hospital, Rm C-1**

**Note: The TAC meeting took place at 11:15 in Mad River's administrative conference room.**