

MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the June 10, 2020 meeting via Zoom

Present (Via Zoom):

Doug Boileau, EMT-P	Arcata-Mad River Ambulance
Jaison Chand, EMT-P	City Ambulance
Tim Howard	DHHS—Public Health
Charles Tweed, EMT-P	Del Norte Ambulance
Peri Penman, DO	Mad River Hospital
Tina Wood, RN	Mad River Hospital
Louis Bruhnke, EMT-P	North Coast EMS
Larry Karsteadt	North Coast EMS
Patrick Lynch	North Coast EMS
Kayce Hurd, EMT-P	North Coast EMS
Stayce Curry	North Coast EMS
Dennis Louy	North Coast EMS-Del Norte
Pamela Collver, RN	Redwood Memorial Hospital
Tracie Conner, RN	St. Joseph Hospital
Kelsey McCullough, RN	St. Joseph Hospital
Lisa Neuger, MD	St. Joseph Hospital
Kari Vandiver, RN	St. Joseph Hospital

1. INTRODUCTIONS/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The 05/13/20 minutes were approved.

2. OLD BUSINESS

Paramedic Program Update

Per Doug: Sixteen students have completed the classroom portion of the Program. Fourteen are active in field internships, one student is being authorized today, and one is pending approval by an FTO in Del Norte. The next class begins on 08/22/20. There are currently twenty-four applicants but Doug believes there are more applications awaiting to be processed. This is the earliest he can remember a class being so close to capacity (the maximum for the Program is thirty). Any EMTs who are interested in the Program, but have not registered, need to do so quickly. Currently, there are no applicants from either Del Norte or Curry County, and if no students from those areas register, the Program will not implement a distance-learning component this year. College of the Redwoods is having financial difficulties, but their budget cuts have not affected the Paramedic Program so far.

Infectious Disease Report

Nothing aside from COVID-19.

HPP Medical Disaster Project

Per Louis: The Project is due to be audited (the audit occurs every three years). NCEMS is preparing the Project application for next year, which is due next week. Maris Hawkins, who passed away recently, was instrumental in assisting with both of those processes, which has put added strain on NCEMS to finish them by the deadlines. The state has dramatically altered the requirements for next year's grant as far as the LEMSAs are concerned. After the MAC meeting, Louis will meet with all three Disaster Liaisons to discuss the grant changes and deliverables for next year. Louis believes NCEMS will be mainly focusing on COVID-19 issues.

Trauma, STEMI, EMS for Children Program, and Stroke Updates

Trauma

Per Larry: NCEMS has postponed their three planned trauma center surveys scheduled for July. They completed a survey of Sutter Coast Hospital earlier this year. They plan to conduct the surveys sometime in the future.

STEMI

Per Larry: NCEMS has postponed their planned STEMI receiving center surveys until sometime in the future.

EMS for Children

Per Larry: NCEMS has postponed their three planned EDAP hospital surveys. They plan to survey four or five of the seven EDAPs sometime in the future.

Stroke

Per Larry: Selinda Shontz had planned visits to hospitals before COVID-19 to discuss stroke related issues, but she will shift to conducting the meetings via phone conferences.

Behavioral Health Update

Per Stayce: Mental Health is trying to hold COVID-19 symptomatic patients at Semper Virens. SV representatives met with Dr. Frankovich, the Public Health Officer and Dr. Ennis, interim Deputy Health Officer to finalize updating the medical clearance form to include a COVID-19 section, and to help create a safe area in SV that could hold a patient. SV will hold a walk-through to determine if they could create a negative air pressure space, or to designate the entire second floor if there were a surge in COVID-19 patients. Per Tracie: When St. Joseph has a patient to send to SV, must they test them for COVID-19, and if so, which type of test? Per Stayce: A hospital will be required to test the patient, as this requirement will be in the medical clearance form. There is not one preferred test, but once a patient is admitted, Mental Health plans to test them every three days using the Public Health rapid test to catch any false negatives. Stayce has organized a meeting next Tuesday with Dr. Frankovich and Dr. Ennis, and hospital representatives to address issues with symptomatic behavioral health patients. Stayce is trying to determine the best way to bring a patient into SV. She asked if ambulance personnel have ever taken a gurney up the back stairs on the Harris St. side of Semper Virens. Both Doug and Jaison stated they have walked a patient up those stairs in the past, but would never take a gurney. Per Daryn: As of today, SV has fifteen patents. Several patients are awaiting long-term placement in out of area facilities. SV is contending with the issue that many facilities around the state have stopped admissions from out of 'their counties. Per Stayce: There have been several outbreaks in such facilities around the state, which is why many are not taking out of county patients. Per Tracie: Will law enforcement bring 5150 patients from the field to St. Joseph for COVID-19 testing? Per Stayce: This issue has not been worked out yet, but eventually all patients from the field will need to be tested.

Exclusive Operating Area Update

Per Larry: Nothing new to report.

Policy Committee

Per Kayce: The next policy review committee meeting will take place at the end of the month. The agenda and policies for review will go out either today or tomorrow morning. Per Louis: Topics for discussion include ventilator use and Levophed.

2020 Calendar Approval

Per Larry: All further MAC meetings will likely be conducted via Zoom. The TAC and cardiac meetings will take place via Zoom as well after the MAC meetings as scheduled. Per Dr. Neuger: Will

the TAC meeting start immediately after the MAC or at 1:30pm? Larry will consider the time, but likes having some time in between the two meetings.

3. NEW BUSINESS

COVID-19 Patient Destination Directive: Discussion

Per Larry: Dr. Karp and Dr. Ennis drafted a temporary redirection of known COVID-19 patients within Humboldt County who need medical treatment to go to St. Joseph Hospital. They believe that since St. Joseph has the capability to treat those patients, the patient should bypass other facilities. Ambulance paramedics will still have the discretion to decide a patient needs to go to the closest facility if they believe the patient is medically unstable. Per Louis: St. Joseph is conducting two COVID-19 related trials (1. Remdesivir, and 2. Convalescent plasma). Thus, they determined St. Joseph was the appropriate choice to direct patients. When ambulances bypass the base hospital, they will notify the base hospital. Dr. Neuger would like neurotrauma patients to bypass directly as well, because only St. Joseph can treat neurotrauma. Larry agreed to put this issue on the TAC agenda for the next meeting.

Ventilator and Expanded Scope of Practice: Discussion

Per Louis: There was a proposal that should Humboldt County experience a spike in COVID-19 patients, instead of relying on CAL-ORE flight teams for inter-facility transports within the County, NCEMS could expand the local optional scope of practice for paramedics so ambulances would be able to perform those transports. Discussions with CAL-ORE on which medical interventions they perform on these transports yielded a wide range of answers. NCEMS determined mechanical ventilation and norepinephrine were the most significant interventions to focus on. Currently, paramedics in California can only use ventilators and certain medications such as norepinephrine if they are CPT- trained and working for a CPT provider, or working with a flight nurse on a flight crew. NCEMS discovered that Orange County is allowing its paramedics to use a ventilator, despite the state's CPT regulations, and EMSA has not clarified whether or not paramedics can use them. Thus, NCEMS has decided to allow paramedics to use ventilators, and to request from the state to use norepinephrine, following the training requirements within the CPT regulations. Louis is confident the state will allow paramedics in Humboldt to use both interventions. Tracie inquired about sedating intubated patients. Per Louis: Most patients on a ventilator being transported by CAL-ORE are receiving propofol. However, paramedics could use fentanyl or benzos instead of propofol. In addition, NCEMS is accelerating its adoption of ketamine.

4. NCEMS REPORT

Per Larry: The JPA Governing Board meeting was postponed until 07/21/20. NCEMS sent a memo to all providers regarding an Image Trend flat base rate. Lee Hawkins and Wendy Chapmen have been working on fiscal issues since Maris Hawkins passing. NCEMS advertised and received three applications for the vacant Fiscal Manager position, and will interview the applicants soon. NCEMS submitted their annual EMS update and the QIP update to the state EMSA. They are in the process of completing their year-end planning and reconciliations. They received a small one time only COVID-19 related grant from the Humboldt Area Foundation to help with their deficit issues.

5. EMS LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The legislature has either postponed or removed most of the bills Jaison has mentioned in previous reports. Rumors are that AB2131 will be amended to allow ambulance personnel to use their own PPE if they do not like the PPE the employer has provided. AB2092, which would require EMS workers to be provided with protective gear such as bulletproof vests, has been modified to state that workers must be informed on their initial hiring, and then annually, that such equipment can be provided. Jaison expects the bill to pass the legislature and for the Governor to sign. There is a new movement called the "New Blue Deal" (lead by Rep. Allen Gray), which would re-envision EMS for California in such areas

as alternative destinations and treatment on-scene. The movement is in the early stages. Otherwise, the only legislation moving forward in the state is COVID-19 related.

6. FACILITY AND PROVIDER REPORTS

Mad River Hospital—Per Tina: Their patient volume is increasing slowly but steadily. They have demobilized their hospital to the point where they were in the middle of March. Their staff have ample PPE. They have a designated space for screening and testing patients for COVID-19.

St. Joseph Hospital—Per Tracie: Their Remdesivir trial is now closed. They are giving the drug to their COVID-19 patients on a case-by-case basis, working closely with Public Health. They only have a limited supply. Their COVID convalescent plasma exchange trial is still running. They now have the "Panther Test" for COVID-19. It is a PCR test with a four-hour turnaround time. The test is only sent out in one batch per day, but can have up to one thousand tests per batch. Tracie is still planning a Hep Nitro class for paramedics. Doug and Charles expressed interest for their agency's staff. Tracie is attempting to develop a plan for field care audits for the rest of the year. Louis inquired if field care audits should be conducted via Zoom, given his concerns over confidential information being shared during those audits and uninvited attendees "dropping in". Per Doug: Zoom has an option to turn recording off, and as of May, Zoom is now an encrypted service. Doug and Jaison both expressed that audits are not meant to have confidential information, and members of the public are allowed to attend. Per Jaison: If confidential information is being presented, that issue should be addressed.

Redwood Memorial Hospital--Pam Collver left the meeting, so nothing to report.

City Ambulance--Per Jaison: Nearly all of their staff have taken Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC) training. Their EMT attendant program is completed. EMTs who have taken the program are now working on their "internships". They must complete ten contacts with BLS patients under the direction of a paramedic. They have five new paramedic students working on their field internships.

Del Norte Ambulance—Per Charles: They have new paramedics who are about to begin their field internships.

DHHS-Public Health—Per Tim H: Nothing to report.

Arcata-Mad River Ambulance--Per Doug: All of their staff completed EVOC training. Doug conducted an FTO class last week with eleven students from various ambulances companies. They were involved in two COVID-19 transport cases.

7. Next Meeting: July 8, 2020, 9am via ZOOM