

MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the July 08, 2020 meeting via Zoom

Present (Via Zoom):

Doug Boileau, EMT-P	Arcata-Mad River Ambulance
Jaison Chand, EMT-P	City Ambulance
Katie Baza	City Ambulance
Virginia Plambeck	City Ambulance
Brandon Johnson, EMT-P	Del Norte Ambulance
Tim Howard	DHHS—Public Health
Megan Montgomery	DHHS—Public Health
Sean Anderson, RN	Mad River Hospital
Tina Wood, RN	Mad River Hospital
Louis Bruhnke, EMT-P	North Coast EMS
Stayce Curry	North Coast EMS
Rita Henderson, RN	North Coast EMS
Kayce Hurd, EMT-P	North Coast EMS
Larry Karsteadt	North Coast EMS
Patrick Lynch	North Coast EMS
Dennis Louy	North Coast EMS-Del Norte
Pamela Colver, RN	Redwood Memorial Hospital
Phillip Maddox, MD	Redwood Memorial Hospital
Tracie Conner, RN	St. Joseph Hospital
Kelsey McCullough, RN	St. Joseph Hospital
Kari Vandiver, RN	St. Joseph Hospital

1. INTRODUCTIONS/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The 06/10/20 minutes were approved.

2. OLD BUSINESS

Paramedic Program Update

Per Doug: Sixteen students are in field internships. Four students are around halfway through their internships. The next class is scheduled to begin on 08/22/20. The class is now full (thirty students are registered and four are on the waiting list). Doug is concerned with the program's clinical rotations in light of COVID-19 restrictions. He reminded hospitals that the Program needs to confirm that there will be clinical rotations or the Program cannot begin. The state delayed the due date for annual report again. Doug will submit the report this week.

Infectious Disease Report

Nothing aside from COVID-19. COVID cases have increased in Humboldt County. Public Health's Communicable Disease Nursing team is working to respond. Per Louis: On yesterday's Redwood Coast Healthcare Coalition (RCHC) call, Dr. Ennis recommended all first-line medical responders and ENS personnel be vaccinated for seasonal influenza. Per Jaison: While City Ambulance should be able to easily get access to enough of the vaccine to get all their responders immunized, first responders in the more remote areas of Humboldt, such as small rural fire departments, may have difficulty. Jaison suggested Public Health work with the Humboldt Fire Chiefs Association on this issue, and gave Dr. Ennis the contact information for the head of the Fire Chiefs. Dennis (a retired school administrator) is concerned about schools opening again with live attendance this fall in light of COVID-19. He wants first responders to start considering how this will affect them and how they will be able to support the school districts.

HPP Medical Disaster Project

Per Louis: NCEMS submitted the HPP work plan for this fiscal year to CDPH on time. NCEMS was audited by the state (the audit occurs every three years), and Louis believes it went well, despite a couple of outstanding issues. For this-coming year, most of the HPP project will most likely focus on COVID-19 response. Louis briefly explained HPP. The Hospital Preparedness Program is a federal program that administers a grant, portions of which goes to each state, and then to local health departments and EMS agencies. For NCEMS, the grant helps fund their county liaisons for example.

Trauma, STEMI, EMS for Children Behavioral Health, and Stroke Updates

Trauma

Per Rita: The TAC meeting will follow today's MAC meeting. Trauma site surveys have been rescheduled 11/16-11/19/20, and will cover St. Joseph, Mad River, and Sutter Lakeside hospitals. Following the TAC meeting, NCEMS will hold a brief CQI meeting to address a recent case at St. Joseph Hospital. The surveys are contingent on any changes due to COVID-19.

STEMI

Per Larry: Site STEMI surveys have been delayed due to COVID-19. He is planning to hold a joint cardiac/stroke meeting after the next MAC meeting.

EMS for Children

Per Rita: EDAP Site surveys for Sutter Coast Jerold Phelps, Mad River, Adventist Health, and Sutter Lakeside hospitals will occur the week of 11/16-11/19/20. The surveys are contingent on any changes due to COVID-19.

Stroke

Per Larry: NCEMS received an email from St. Joseph Hospital yesterday announcing their intention to pursue stroke certification.

Behavioral Health Update

Per Stayce: Semper Virens changed their admission criteria in light of COVID-19. Semper Virens may be off diversion soon. There was an issue at Mad River with a 5150 patient on a law enforcement hold that they felt could have potentially been released. Kelly Johnson, Mental Health, sent a reply stating that Mental Health had the resources to help Mad River. Per Sean: Mad River's ER is being impacted by 5150 patients awaiting COVID-19 test results to a point where they are not always able to help other patients with medical needs. Per Tina: Because of EMTALA regulations, they must contact the nearest receiving facility first, which is Semper Virens, and SV must deny them, before they can reach out to other facilities. Per Stayce: Dr. Ennis and NCEMS are trying to find alternatives to the current situation. Per Larry: There is only one facility in the state (at UCLA) that will take COVID-19 positive behavioral health patients. NCEMS has contacted state agencies as well as other medical associations to find solutions for where to house COVID-19 positive behavioral clients in the state. Per Stayce: Waterfront Recovery Services is requesting donations for basic supplies and clothing for their clients.

Policy Updates

Per Louis: The Policy Review Committee met on 06/23/20. Louis felt the meeting went well. One concern is inter facility transfers between Redwood and St. Joseph hospitals that currently must be done by CAL-ORE flight crews, contingent on them being available. City Ambulance would like to take those transfers. Jaison believes if they were allowed to use additional interventions, City Ambulance would be able to. At a recent meeting: it was determined that the interventions would be 1. Use of Ventilators, and 2. Use of pressers. NCEMS is seeking temporary authorization from the state to allow paramedics to use ventilators and monitor norepinephrine infusions in light of the COVID-19 situation. Louis believes that if their efforts are successful, NCEMS could get the permission extended beyond when the COVID-19 crisis

ends. NCEMS will finalize the draft policies and send a formal request to the state. He suggested Kayce and Jaison work on finalizing the request. Per Jaison: CAL-ORE has reviewed all of their inter facility transfers from late 2019-2020. The vast majority of medications CAL-ORE flight crews gave to patients were either fentanyl or norepinephrine. Jaison believes the NCEMS fentanyl policies will need to be expanded to include IV infusions. Kayce suggested a training program for the new interventions, along with a test and skills sheet be ready to send to the state along with the NCEMS request. She believes CAL-ORE may already have a training program.

3. NEW BUSINESS

CCT/Unified Scope/Expanded Scope

Per Larry: Since this issue was covered under policy updates, there is nothing additional to discuss.

4. NCEMS REPORT

Larry postponed the upcoming JPA meeting. This will give NCEMS time to review fiscal revenue. The next meeting scheduled for 10/21/20 may be moved up to September. The only item requiring action would have been the Image Trend base rate, which has been put on hold. NCEMS received a small grant from the Humboldt Area Foundation to help with their projected deficit. They will soon officially hire Lee Hawkins as their new Fiscal Manager. Comments on new Exclusive Operating Area regulations are due to the state by the end of the month. NCEMS will probably join EMSAC in supporting the new regulations. NCEMS is still working on an internal review of the local EOA effecting Arcata Mad River Ambulance and City Ambulance. NCEMS also supports AB2647, which would add consideration of "vulnerable populations", specifically Alzheimer's patients, to the state's public health disaster preparedness and planning process. Larry hopes the County of Humboldt will support this bill. He has asked the CAO's Office to consider supporting it.

5. EMS LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Per Jaison: AB2092, which would require ambulance companies to provide protective gear, such as ballistic vests, to their employees, has passed the Assembly. It is currently in the Senate in committee. The modified language states the ambulance companies must inform employees that such equipment is available, as opposed to automatically providing the equipment. All other bills Jaison has mentioned in previous meetings are on hold. Jaison reviewed the new EOA regulation process Larry mentioned above, and encouraged MAC members to review the regulations. The proposed regulations are out for public comment, which are due by 07/23/20. The state Fire Chiefs Association opposes the regulations.

6. FACILITY AND PROVIDER REPORTS

Mad River Hospital— Per Tina: They have been busy overall, and had a busy nightshift last night. Sean is uncomfortable with holding Field Care Audits in person due to COVID-19. His plan was to create PowerPoint FCA's and email them out to interested parties. He discussed some ideas he has for Mad River's next FCA. Per Tina: They have a contract with UCSF to adapt UCSF's Zoom classes on pediatrics to FCA's locally. Per Louis: NCEMS agrees that continuing FCAs is important, but they should be done remotely to protect the health of the participants.

St. Joseph Hospital—Tracie is attempting to organize a Hep Nitro class. Per Kari: They are holding a TNCC today and tomorrow. They have been busy and are concerned with being able to staff trauma patients safely due to increased behavioral health holds.

Redwood Memorial Hospital—Per Pam: Their manager, Andy Billings, has resigned. Those reporting to Andy are now reporting to Phillip Maddox, the interim ED Medical Director. Pam agrees with Sean that holding field care audits via Power Point is a good idea. Redwood Memorial cannot hold in person FCAs. Pam wants to work with Sean on a plan for continuing FCAs. Rita suggested adding a three to five question

attestation about the FCA to any Power Point. Per Pam: This is already required if the hospitals want to continue issuing Continuing Education (CE) credits. Larry added that for the TAC meetings, unless all patient information is redacted, attendees should be required to concur with rules on patient disclosure.

City Ambulance--Jaison is concerned about paramedics not having enough field care audits, due to COVID-19, and requested an extension for accreditation because of this reason. Louis asked Jaison to send NCEMS an email with his request for them to review, as they agree with his concern. Per Jaison: All of their dispatchers are now EMD trained. Jaison reviewed NCEMS policies on using EMTs for inter facility transports of Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) patients. The only relevant policy he found already included SNFs. Most of the patients are not sent to a hospital ER (where a receiving physician must approve), but are sent for diagnostic testing or to a receiving physician. Therefore, he believes skilled nursing facilities can contact ambulance providers if they have a pre-arranged transport with a non-emergency patient. Since City Ambulance's dispatchers are now EMD trained, Jaison is comfortable with them taking calls from SNFs. City Ambulance is getting more calls from Semper Virens to transport patients for medical clearance, which is not covered in NCEMS policy. Thus, Jaison would like NCEMS to modify the policy so an EMT/BLS crew can take those patients as well. Jaison's goal with these changes is to free up ALS units more often for emergency transports. Stayce supports Jaison's idea for medical clearance patients.

Del Norte Ambulance— Per Brandon: Nothing to report.

DHHS-Public Health—Per Tim H: Aside from Public Health's continuing COVID-19 response, the County as a whole is planning to reopen on 07/20/20*, thus all DHHS and Public Health divisions that have been closed for months will again start serving the public.

*Note: The County has since pushed back the opening to 07/27/20.

Arcata-Mad River Ambulance--Per Doug: One of their student interns was involved in a cardiac arrest field save on Clam Beach. Bystander CPR was initiated immediately, and the patient was defibrillated several times. The patient regained consciousness in route to the hospital, and was neurologically intact.

7. Next Meeting: August 12, 2020, 9am via ZOOM