

## MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the August 10th, 2022 meeting via Zoom

### **Present (Via Zoom):**

Doug Boileau, EMT-P	Arcata-Mad River Ambulance
Jaison Chand, EMT-P, RN	City Ambulance/REACH
Katie Baza, EMT-B	City Ambulance
Nate McKnight, EMT-P	City Ambulance
Virginia Plambeck, EMT-P	College of the Redwoods EMT Program
Charles Tweed, EMT-P	Del Norte Ambulance
Darrin Short	Del Norte County Supervisor, District 1
Sean Andersen, RN	Mad River Community Hospital
Jason Orlandi, RN	Mad River Community Hospital
Dennis Louy	North Coast EMS-Del Norte County
Stayce Curry, LPT, RN	North Coast EMS
Kayce Hurd, EMT-P	North Coast EMS
Larry Karsteadt	North Coast EMS
Matthew Karp, MD	North Coast EMS
Pam Collver, RN	Redwood Memorial and St. Joseph Hospital
Kari Vandiver, RN	St. Joseph Hospital

### **1. Introductions/Approval of Minutes from the July 13, 2022 meeting.**

The minutes were approved with no corrections.

### **2. OLD BUSINESS**

- **Paramedic Program Update**

Per Doug, 17 students are continuing their internship, one has completed. He added that about 1/3 of those students should be doing their Capstone testing on the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month. We should start seeing new Paramedics in the field as early as the end of September. He reported one student in the Chico area who has 100 hours left to complete has 100 ALS contacts. The new program also starts on the 20<sup>th</sup> with 27 applicants which is a big jump over the 13 reported last meeting. Doug specifically noted that City Ambulance had the largest representation, Jaison clarified that there are 12 current employees attending. Doug finished by reminding the group that they are always looking for interested people in the community to come address the program with any specialty subject they'd like to present.

- **Trauma**

Per Larry, all four Trauma centers are designated and they're in the process of revising the contracts for MRCH and SJH. They are close to completion and almost ready to sign. He thanked the hospitals for their participation in the process.

- **EMS for Children**

Per Larry, nothing new to report.

- **STEMI/Stroke Program Updates**

Per Larry, there have been some closures to the Cath Lab due to staffing issues but there are no upcoming, scheduled closures. He then deferred to Pam and Kari to confirm that. Kari added that things are looking good and nothing is planned as far as future closures.

- **Behavioral Health Update**

Per Stayce, the Hospital Council of California has set up a big collaboration in Humboldt County, working to push forward Dr. Bian's proposed triage sobering center. This center would be able to serve the behavioral health patients who can be served with less restrictive means.

Doug asked if there were any additional updates for Behavioral Health and then asked how many 5150 holds the ERs currently had. Pam responded that they had seven holds, Jason reported that he did not think they had any.

- **Infectious Disease Update**

Larry announced that Dr. Candy Stockton has been hired as the new Health Officer for Humboldt County. She was not able to attend today's meeting but will be joining in the future.

Per Pam, SJH tested their first patient for Monkey Pox.

Larry asked if there were any updates on the local fires. Doug reported that he was evacuated on Saturday night. Everything North and East of Willow Creek, has been closed off and there are fires on 3 sides of the area. Approx 9,000 acres at the moment and evacuations have now extended to Hawkins Bar. Doug reported that, as of last night, there are no structures lost and zero containment.

- **Ambulance Exclusive Operating Area Update**

Per Larry, the monitoring for City and Arcata Mad River continues and he reported that the monitoring show no degradation of services from what was targeted.

Three options were presented in Del Norte County for their EOA which included Status Quo, Non Competitive Bid, and Competitive Bid. The board of supervisors has not taken any action on NCEMS suggestion for a Non Competitive bid, but will be gathering additional data from them. Darrin added that Larry's summary covered things well.

- **North Coast EMS Policy Update**

Per Kayce, there is some discussion to follow around the Destination Determination Policy. First, she added that they have been working on EMT, First Responder, Public Safety, and First Aid policies to bring them in line with the 2021 regulations. Preloads of Intranasal Narcan, Epi Pens, and BG finger sticks are now in the EMT scope of practice. Kayce reported that Virginia has already been notified and updated the curriculum for the College of the Redwoods program.

Per Kayce, the term "Destination Restriction" seems to be causing some conflict and she called for discussion on the language and deferred to Jaison.

Per Jaison, the current language is fine when used somewhere like this meeting but tends to cause confusion when it goes out large scale to people who have not been involved in the creation and implementation of the process. He added that "restriction" is not only inaccurate but also causes confusion in the field. He asked for something along the lines of "delays" or "impacted" that does not imply something is

off limits since this is just a request to notify the patients of the potential of a long wait time.

Discussion ensued on the language and possible terms to use instead of “restriction”. Dr. Karp added that he like the suggested “Patient Preference Advisory”. Jaison and Kari agreed and the group chose to update the draft to include that language over “restriction”.

Kayce continued her report by adding that she is working on many different policy updates, to include consolidating the ALS and BLS policies.

Doug asked if the EMT hours requirements have changed with the updates to the scope of practice and Kayce deferred to Virginia for an answer. Per Virginia, she’d be looking into that and reporting back to the group.

### **3. NEW BUSINESS**

- **APOT/Wall Time and ED Triage Discussion**

Per Larry, we are extremely fortunate to see the kinds of times we see here and he thanked the local hospitals for their efforts in keeping these where they are. Larry reported a slight climb in these times over the last four years. Even with that, we have extremely low times compared to most of the state. Per Pam, the recent notification of possible high offload times was not due to staffing but to a large spike in Covid patients including 10 covid positive admits in one day and people were coming in with no beds. She predicts that these higher times will continue as they are still seeing high numbers to include covid, psych holds, and other patients.

### **4. NORTH COAST EMS REPORT**

Per Larry, the JPA meeting has been postponed. Additionally, he reported that they will be receiving a large amount that they had requested from the State General Fund, effectively doubling their funding. They are currently working with the state on the contract and reworking their budget to present to the governing board. They are planning to increase current salaries and hours for staff and add a part time contract position, hopefully in Lake County. Larry reported that they are excited at the possibility of providing more services with the additional help, pending board approval.

### **5. EMS LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Per Jaison, both Senate and Assembly are no longer in recess. There are no currently active bills that effect this group, but ambulance providers have started their work on another Medi-Cal bill. Additionally, the EMS Authority has put together a Strategic Vision Committee with stakeholders from various groups who have come together to build the vision and mission statement and basic framework for the EMS Authority. Jaison reported that he is an alternate, representing ambulance providers.

### **6. FACILITY AND PROVIDER REPORTS**

#### **Mad River Hospital**

Nothing to report

**St. Joseph and Redwood Memorial Hospitals**

Per Pam, due to many requests, she is putting together another OB Emergency class on September 13<sup>th</sup>. It will be hands on in the Sims lab.

**Del Norte Ambulance**

Per Charles, they are onboarding and getting acclimated to and enjoying their new ambulances.

**City Ambulance of Eureka**

Per Nate, there have been 6 or 7 new hires over the last month and a half with four employees who are currently in their internships and 12 entering the Paramedic Program this next week. Nate reported that he and Kristen will be meeting with Doug later today to work on blending the two agencies CQI process. They are also collaborating with the County Fire Chiefs to help put on a medical class at the end of September in Scotia to move forward with training.

**Arcata Mad River Ambulance**

Per Doug, AMRA is participating in a MCI drill for Cal Poly Humboldt Residents hall. He also reported that the residence halls are at capacity this year. Sean added that this is the first semester that Cal Poly Humboldt is operating at a much higher population which includes homeless students and will possibly impact the hospitals. Jason reported that the college has also leased the Comfort Inn to help deal with the overflow of students.

Larry reported that he will not be attending the next month's meeting as he will be in Hawaii and the meeting was adjourned.

**DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING :September 14, 2022 via ZOOM**