

MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the August 12, 2020 meeting via Zoom

Present (Via Zoom):

Doug Boileau, EMT-P	Arcata-Mad River Ambulance
Brook Hoalton, EMT-P	CALFIRE
Bryan Schwartz, EMP-P	CAL FIRE
Joe Gregorio, EMT	CAL-ORE/REACH
Jaison Chand, EMT-P	City Ambulance
Katie Baza,	City Ambulance
Virginia Plambeck, EMT-P	City Ambulance
Charles Tweed, EMT-P	Del Norte Ambulance
Tim Howard	DHHS—Public Health
Sean Anderson, RN	Mad River Hospital
Tina Wood, RN	Mad River Hospital
Rita Henderson, RN	North Coast EMS
Matthew Karp, MD	North Coast EMS
Larry Karsteadt	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
Carmella Fullenwider, RN	Sutter Coast Hospital

1. SPECIAL THANK YOU AND BEST WISHES TO ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR and REGIONAL DISASTER MANAGER LOUIS BRUHNKE

Per Larry: Louis has accepted the Chief Deputy Director position at the state EMSA. Larry acknowledged Louis's twenty-two years of service at North Coast EMS, as Associate Director and Disaster Liaison. Louis will officially still be with NCEMS until the end of the month. He is unable to join today's meeting, but may join in on future meetings.

2. INTRODUCTIONS/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The 07/08/20 minutes were approved.

3. OLD BUSINESS

Paramedic Program Update

Per Doug: Since last meeting, two students have completed their field internships (both at City Ambulance), and several others are nearing the end of their internships. Many students will take Capstone exams on 08/22/20 and be eligible for the National Registry exam. Doug acknowledged one student ("Chu") who was the first student in history to complete his internship before August. The new program will start 08/22/20. The class is full with thirty students and four on the waiting list. Most students are from this region. Dr. Peri Penman will again be the Medical Director and Vicky Gibney will again be the Clinical Coordinator. Students will attend class and labs in person, but College of the Redwoods has put precautions in place in light of COVID-19. The program is still concerned about a lack of clinical rotations due to COVID restrictions.

Infectious Disease Report

Nothing aside from COVID-19.

HPP Medical Disaster Project

Per Larry: Since Louis oversaw the project, NCEMS needs to replace his position. Larry is considering hiring an interim contractor to oversee the project. NCEMS was behind in billing CDPH for the first half of the year. Their new Fiscal Manager, Lee Hawkins, has completed the billing, and Larry believes NCEMS will recoup their costs. NCEMS applied for and received a COVID-related grant from CDPH totaling \$56,000. This grant will cover part of Larry's salary and Stayce's contract for their time working on COVID issues, as well as COVID related work by NCEMS County Disaster Liaisons. Per Dennis: In Del Norte, NCEMS is working with medical entities on any COVID-related services for which they may need help. Their Special Services Committee helped complete a contract through Del Norte County's EOC and a private company to collect N95 masks for decontamination.

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

Trauma

Per Rita: NCEMS plans to conduct trauma site surveys in November at Sutter Lakeside, St. Joseph, and Mad River Hospitals. NCEMS has scheduled a TAC meeting for Lake County next week. If the TAC meeting is open to hospitals besides those in Lake, Dr. Neuger would like to either attend or listen in remotely. Many of the trauma-related problems Sutter Lakeside has are similar to those of St. Joseph. Rita will send contact information to her. Rita believes Joanne Chapman is on the contact list for the meeting. Larry mentioned a Zoom meeting on 08/17/20 at 10:30am he is hosting to review two recent MCIs.

STEMI/Stroke

Per Larry: The STEMI/Stroke meeting will be held after the MAC meeting at 10:30am. This will be the first attempt to hold such a meeting via ZOOM. Larry asked participants to sign the one-time disclosure agreement Nicole Mobley sent out, which can be used for any future meetings that require QI disclosure protection. Larry will ask participants in today's STEMI/Stroke meeting to verbally confirm that they understand and will abide by disclosure protection.

EMS for Children

Per Rita: NCEMS plans to conduct EDAP site surveys in November at all hospitals in the region, except for St. Joseph and Redwood Memorial hospitals, which they surveyed last year.

Behavioral Health Update

Per Larry: Many hospital EDs are reporting a backlog of 5150 patients who are awaiting transfer to Semper Virens because they must be tested for COVID-19 and test negative or SV will not take them.

Per Tina: Mad River Hospital does not have the ability to house 5150 patients at their facility and keep them, or hospital staff safe. Sean stated that Mad River is not receiving COVID test results fast enough from Public Health's Lab, and sometimes the Lab is denying they receive the samples. Larry suggested either Sean or Tina participate in a Behavioral Health call Friday at 1:30pm that Stayce hosts so they can bring up this issue. Per Pam: Public Health's Lab does not work on Sundays, which contributes to the delay in COVID test results.

Policy Updates

Per Larry: NCEMS is continuing work on policies to allow paramedics to work at "fixed sites" such as alternate care sites, and adding Ketamine and norepinephrine to the paramedic scope of practice. NCEMS will probably seek state approval to allow paramedics to administer flu vaccines this year, and for the future, administer COVID vaccines. Per Rita: The patient re-triage policy is moving forward. Per Sean: Is NCEMS planning to move to Rapid Sequence Intubation of patients? Per Larry/Dr. Karp: NCEMS has not discussed this, and such a move would require a change in state policy.

COVID-19 Updates

Per Larry: On a recent EMDAC call, representatives stated that throughout the state, hospitals are shifting from using ventilators on COVID-19 patients to using high-flow oxygen therapy. According to some physicians, using high-flow therapy results in a 30% reduction in a patient's hospital stay. Supplies for this therapy are in short supply in some areas of the state. Hospitals are challenged at planning for long-term use of high-flow therapy for patients once they are discharged. While Larry has not discussed high-flow with Dr. Karp, he suggests that hospitals in the region consider having stocks of high-flow supplies on hand. Per Sean: Mad River Hospital learned that any new firefighter reporting to the area for fire camp will be required to get two COVID tests on back-to-back days. Recently, three firefighters who have been in several states previously, arrived unexpectedly at Mad River Hospital's ER. The commanders of the fire camps had no contact with the COVID Incident Command Structure that is already set up, and instead told the firefighters to go directly to a hospital ER for a COVID test. Sean and Wendy Chapman have been trying to link the fire camps to the ICS for COVID response in order to prevent this from continuing to happen. Doug is only aware of one fire camp currently set up in Humboldt County—near Willow Creek, and Frontline Medical is on scene. He suggested Mad River contact Frontline Medical. Further, CALFIRE's command center in Fortuna can put Mad River in touch with the federal incident commander in Willow Creek. Tina stated she talked with a representative from the IC requesting they not send firefighters to the ER, and they were sent anyway. Megan Blanchard of DHHS-Public Health has also been in contact with the incident command trying to assist Mad River.

4. NEW BUSINESS

CCT/Unified Scope/Expanded Scope

Per Larry: Nothing new to report. Policies on the use of ventilators and norepinephrine are still under review.

Policy Update: Traumatic Arrest in the Field

Per Larry/Dr. Karp: Nothing new to report.

5. NCEMS REPORT

Per Larry: The Governing Board has scheduled their next meeting for 10/20/20. Two long-serving members of the Board, Del Norte County Supervisor Roger Gitlin, and Lake County Supervisor Rob Brown (the Board Chair), end their terms next January, so October will be their last meeting. The EOA draft contracts will go to Jaison, Doug, and Joe either today or tomorrow for their review.

6. EMS LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Per Jaison: AB 2892, which would require ambulance companies to inform employees that protective gear is available if they want it, is the only EMS-related bill currently in the state legislature. GMR has dropped their opposition, but the California Ambulance Association (CAA) remains opposed, because of agencies potentially being required to supply inter-facility transport providers with body armor when realistically they will never need it. New Chapter 13 regulations are on hold again. The state EMSA plans to form another task force in the future to address those regulations. Jaison will be the CAA representative for the future workgroup. Per Larry: The Chapter 13 Regulations involve two main issues—1. EOA, both competitive and non-competitive, and 2. The EMS planning process. Larry would like the state to separate these two issues, so the EMS planning process can be addressed sooner. The EOA regulations could take a long time to resolve.

7. FACILITY AND PROVIDER REPORTS

St. Joseph Hospital—Tracie is preparing a PowerPoint Field Care Audit on “benzodiazepine paradoxical

effects” to all EMS providers, which will provide two CE credits. She is still working on creating a Hep Nitro class. Dr. Neuger recommended hospitals share their Zoom FCAs with each other so they do not duplicate their efforts if one hospital is planning a FCA on the same topic in the future. Larry would like hospitals to send those ZOOM FCAs to NCEMS so they can review them as well. Per Kari: Next week, they will hold a TNCC course. Their patient volume is increasing substantially.

City Ambulance—Per Jaison: Due to COVID-19, they have reinstated restrictions, including limiting the number of staff at their bases, keeping paramedic partners together instead of crossing among crews, and separating crews at their Fortuna base. City Ambulance took precautions when they learned several firefighters at a CALFIRE station tested positive for COVID-19. Several paramedics have or will soon complete their internships.

Mad River Hospital—Per Sean: Their patient count is increasing to pre-COVID levels. Their current engineering controls are working well. Sean again mentioned the issues with 5150 patients. He also mentioned that the hospital has noticed patients coming in who wear tungsten rings, which cannot be cut off with the normal cutting devices. Hospitals need a special tungsten breaking device, which costs around eighty dollars.

DHHS-Public Health—Per Tim H: They are continuing to expand their Contact Tracing team in response to COVID-19. Many community volunteers have joined the team, including several retired former Public Health employees. Public Health has closed their Clinic again to the general public, due to repurposing staff for COVID. This will continue on a month-to-month-basis.

Redwood Memorial Hospital—Pam is preparing a PowerPoint Field Care Audit on STEMI for next week. Participants will need to take a test and send back a review sheet to Pam in order to get CEs

CALFIRE—Per Brook: Their Medical Director, Dr. Brent Rosen, will attempt to contact NCEMS and medical providers in the future if they have to downsize their staff or if their apparatus is unable to perform specialized rescue. They have two contact tracers for COVID response.

Del Norte Ambulance—Per Charles: They are busy. They are continuing their necessary trainings via ZOOM. They are working to ensure all staff are using proper PPE in order to protect from possible COVID exposure. They are looking to develop new policies for uncooperative 5150 patients who are COVID positive and believe the policies will be part of a long-term change in dealing with such patients.

Sutter Coast Hospital—Per Carmella: Last week they sent out their first PowerPoint field care audit, which included a test and HIPAA privacy statement that participants must return to her in order to get two CEs. The topic was seizures. Carmella is planning a stroke field care audit for September. Sutter Coast is offering ALS and BLS recertification classes for employees, with the goal of eventually offering them to others in the community (they want to become a training site by November or December).

Arcata-Mad River Ambulance--Per Doug: They have transported several COVID-19 patients recently. They have an ongoing skills lab training requirement for their personnel, and have set up a skills station with materials that staff can use while on duty. July saw their highest call volume for that month in history.

7. Next Meeting: September 9, 2020, 9am via ZOOM