MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the October 11th, 2023 meeting via Zoom

**Present (Via Zoom):**

Doug Boileau, EMT-P Arcata-Mad River Ambulance

Brook Hoalton , EMT-P Cal Fire

Jaison Chand, EMT-P City Ambulance/REACH

Katie Baza, EMT-B City Ambulance

Charles Tweed,EMT-P Del Norte Ambulance

Darrin Short Del Norte County Supervisor

Candy Stockton, MD Humboldt county Public Health

Dino Novelo Humboldt County Public Health

Marissa Johanson, RN Mad River Community Hospital

Tina Wood, RN Mad River Community Hospital

Tom Taylor, MD 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

Pam Mather, RN North Coast EMS

Patrick Lynch, RN North Coast EMS

Rita Henderson, RN North Coast EMS

Pamela Collver, RN Redwood Memorial and St. Joseph Hospitals

1. **Introductions/Approval of Minutes from the September 13, 2023 meeting.**

The minutes were approved as written.

1. **OLD BUSINESS**

* **Trauma**

Per Rita, still planning their trauma surveys in Lake and Humboldt Counties

* **EMS for Children Program Updates**

Per Rita, EDAP designation letters went out to St. Joseph and Redwood Memorial Hospitals and they are fully designated through 2026.

* **Paramedic Program Update**

Per Doug, 14 of last year’s class are still in their internships. Seven have tested national registry, six have passed, and five are currently licensed. He reported that the current program started with 23 students. One has dropped and there are two more who may be dropping. Doug added that the students will be entering their clinical rotations the first week of November.

* **Behavioral Health Update**

Per Stayce, the Carestar grant was awarded to Del Norte County and they have their first stakeholder meeting at the end of the month to move forward with their mobile response. Eureka’s alternate response team is in the process of the CareStar grant as well, but Rita reported that there are only two more grants in the state to be awarded.

Rita took a moment to recognize Jaison and his “monumental efforts in sticking with SB 1376 as it’s morphed from other bills.” She reported that this bill has passed and will truly impact many agencies in the state. Larry asked for a summary of that bill. Per Rita, it clearly defines that a 5150 can be enforced during transport and legally protects the ambulance personnel who are doing so.

* **Infectious Disease Update**

Per Dino, nothing to report.

* **Ambulance Exclusive Operating Area Update**

Per Pam, there are no significant changes. They have just finished the 3rd quarter and both Humboldt providers have submitted their reports on time.

* **North Coast EMS Policy Update**

Per Kayce, everyone should expect to see a lot of emails over the next several days as updated policy drafts are going out for comment. She asked that everyone not only review the content but also the formatting when preparing their comments.

1. **NEW BUSINES****S**

* **Electronic Prehospital Care Record Transition to 3.5**

Per Larry, as most are aware, the transition from 3.4 to 3.5 is happening. They have sent a letter to the State authorizing the data to temporarily be sent directly to the state instead of flowing through the LEMSA while they work to upgrade their own systems.

Per Kayce, only AMRA and City are transmitting directly to the state as ICEMA is not able to receive that data. She added that they have an expected time to upgrade by the end of this month or the beginning of next. Doug asked if the hospitals were able to access that data through Hospital Hub and Kayce clarified that they were. Doug then asked what the advantage to NCEMS is to still be using ICEMA. Kayce noted that there is a cost associated with the use of ICEMA but clarified that transitioning away from ICEMA would come with a higher cost to both NCEMS and the providers. Larry added that they have a longstanding arrangement with ICEMA and are getting a deal at $15,000 per year, which is mostly covered by the local providers.

1. **NORTH COAST EMS REPORT**

Per Larry, there is a governing board meeting that is tentatively scheduled for November 2nd, pending the availability of a quorum. They are working with Lake County to revise their current ambulance ordinance and have a meeting next week to review that. Larry added that their general fund quarterly report is due on Monday.

Doug noted that Dr. Stockton had joined the meeting and asked if she had a report to give. Per Dr. Stockton, they have seen slight increases in the Covid rates. They are going to be releasing the annual respiratory virus season health order next week. This requires hospital and long term care health workers to have the flu and covid vaccines or be masked during the time period covered by the order.

Larry asked if they had any idea what to expect for flu season. Dr. Stockon replied that there is not much data coming out and they don’t currently have any predictions. She added that we have not yet seen any cases locally, which is to be expected at this point.

1. **EMS LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Per Jaison, there was a second bill that passed, AB716, which prevents ambulance companies from balance billing patients. The bill also requires that commercial insurance companies recognize the full rates charged by ambulance providers if those rates are regulated by government. As the local agencies are all rate regulated, he noted that this will most likely be a net positive here. Jaison added that the wall times bill is still sitting on the Governor’s desk and they’re thinking that it may not end up being signed.

Pam asked which bill they were thinking would pass this year or next that was in regard to restraints. Jaison clarified that was the bill that they were discussing earlier and that it had already passed, AB1376. He added that it had been signed into law the day before yesterday.

1. **FACILITY AND PROVIDER REPORTS**

**Mad River Hospital**

Per Marissa, they held their first Field Care Audit on September 28th. She noted that is was well attended but she’s hoping to see an increase in attendance. They are still working their way through their QRP processes and are hoping to collaboratively plan some things if they’re able to move to quarterly meetings.

**St. Joseph and Redwood Memorial Hospitals**

Per Pam, their September census spiked severely, and she asked if Mad River saw the same thing. Marissa responded that she has not had a chance to look at that data due to her other job. Pam noted that they are concerned about what the winter holds for them if they continue to see numbers like they did in September. She reported that they are preparing for their disaster drill, which will be held a week from today. They are also hoping to have a STEMI Field Care Audit next month. The hospitals will begin to train their staff to the new restraint policy. Pam asked Jaison if that was still set to roll out on November 1st, and he confirmed that date. Marissa asked Jaison to send him a copy of the policy and he replied that he would, but that she also had access to that on Policy Tech. Doug added that AMRA had already rolled it out.

**Del Norte Ambulance**

Per Ron, nothing to report.

**Cal Fire**

Per Brooke, with the recent rains throughout the North, they are probably looking to down staff this month. They just finished up a Public Safety First Aid class with the CCC and CR Fire Academy.

**City Ambulance**

Per Jaison, they are working to get their new CCT units into service soon, one locally and one in Lake County. He reported they will be fully outfitted with pumps and Fairfield mounts and will have upgraded inverters. Marissa asked if the units will have ventilators. Jaison responded that they will not have vents on the units but will have the capability to plug in the flight teams vents without concern of tripping anything. Marissa asked if the local hospitals were willing to let go of a vent for a long period of time and what the staffing matrix looked like for trips that don’t involve a flight team. She also asked about critical care training for the paramedics. Jaison responded that they are taking full advantage of the expanded scope with blood products, antibiotics, etc. the problem was that the medications that come along with a ventilated patient is what pushes that beyond the local paramedic scope.

**Arcata Mad River Ambulance**

Per Doug, they are one of the agencies using the 3.5 ImageTrend. He reported that, although it’s a familiar program, there is a learning curve on the updates and changes. He reported that they are putting a unit out of service due to exceeding the mileage restraints of the EOA.

With nothing further to report, the meeting was adjourned.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING: **November 8, 2023 via ZOOM**