

MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the November 10th, 2021 meeting via Zoom

Present (Via Zoom):

Doug Boileau, EMT-P	Arcata-Mad River Ambulance
Jon Busher, EMT-P	Cal Fire
Graham Felsenthal, EMT-P	City Ambulance
Jaison Chand, EMT-P, RN	City Ambulance/REACH/Calstar
Katie Baza	City Ambulance
Charles Tweed, EMT-P	Del Norte Ambulance
Darrin Short	Del Norte County Supervisor
Alyse Dorman	Humboldt County Public Health
Paige Rowley	Humboldt County Public Health
Sean Anderson, RN	Mad River Hospital
Tina Wood, RN	Mad River Hospital
Stayce Curry, LPT RN	North Coast EMS
Rita Henderson, RN	North Coast EMS
Kayce Hurd, EMT-P	North Coast EMS
Larry Karsteadt	North Coast EMS
Patrick Lynch, RN	North Coast EMS
Dennis Louy	North Coast EMS-Del Norte
Pamela Collver, RN	Redwood Memorial Hospital
Kari Vandiver, RN	St. Joseph Hospital
Kerin Mase, RN	Sutter Coast Hospital
Michelle Buchanan, RN	Sutter Coast Hospital

1. Introductions/Approval of Minutes from the October 13, 2021 meeting.

2. OLD BUSINESS

- **Paramedic Program Update**

Per Doug, 16 of the last class has now passed the program. Of those students, 15 have tested, 12 of whom are Nationally registered and at least 8 are now State licensed paramedics. That class has until the end of December to finish. The current class still has 18 students with one student who is returning to the program for a total of 19.

- **Trauma**

Per Larry, not much to report. There is a TAC meeting today at 1100. Per Rita, this meeting has a separate Zoom link, which can be found in the TAC agenda.

- **EMS for Children and STEMI Program Updates**

Per Larry, they are beginning the process to update the state required EMS Plans including the Regional EMS, Trauma, STEMI, QIP, and EMS for Children Plan Updates. These will be worked on by various people over the next few months.

- **Behavioral Health**

Per Stayce, at the last behavioral health meeting they reported on lots of work and improvement around staff development, recruitment and, retention. She reported that they had several interviews for nursing and other positions at Semper Virens last week. The long empty SV administrator position was filled as well by Phillipa Watkins. She is from Sonoma Health and is not only experienced, but full of ideas

that she brings from her background. Also, Stayce reminded us again of the Medical Peer Support group, which meets the second Tuesday and fourth Saturday of every month.

- **Infectious Disease Update**

Per Paige, Public Health has started scheduling family and pediatric vaccine clinics to target that population to increase vaccination rates. Paige also introduced their new Emergency Preparedness Program Coordinator, Alyse Dorman. Per Alyse, she has been transitioned into her new position for about four weeks now but has been working for Public Health in a different capacity for the entire duration of Covid. She is excited to take on this new role. Larry requested her contact information to add her to the mailing lists.

- **North Coast EMS Policy Update**

Per Kayce, she thinks it would be a good idea to move the next review committee meeting to the last Tuesday of November to allow for more time to review. She will be sending out the updated policies today. There were no conflicts and that review meeting was moved to November 30th at 1000.

- **Streamlining the Accreditation Process Update**

Per Larry, he wanted to thank Doug and Jason for bringing this opportunity before group. He acknowledged that Kayce really did her homework into this matter, researching ideas externally. Internally, they have decided to drop the PCMD signature requirement for the application. He reported that, traditionally, this was required to ensure that a new paramedic had the opportunity to meet the PCMD prior to accreditation but knows it can be hard to track them down and delay the process. The PCNC signature is still required. Another move they are looking at making is the online accreditation process. This does require the medic to ensure that NCEMS has access to the needed PCR's, which can also cause issues. Per Kayce, they will not be doing away with the two-step application process as requested at the last meeting because a lot of these applications are still coming from out of the area, not all the agencies were in agreement that this was holding up the accreditation process, and other LEMSAs appear to have at least a two-step process. Larry added that the State licensure process has to be finished prior to local accreditation and NCEMS has to verify that and confirm compliance with accreditation standards. This usually takes two or three working days for us to complete. He also reported that they are looking to streamline the FTO process as well. Doug asked for clarification on the "10-call" for new paramedics, asking if it was only required to be a 5-call if the applicant was entering the region from another. Larry deferred to Kayce, who reported that they were discussing moving it to a 5-call for those applicants, but Dr. Karp expressed that he'd like to see a 10-call from them as well. She was hoping that it could be a noted run number on the audit form instead of the actual full 10 calls turned in. Larry confirmed that they will look further into this as they tighten up the policy. Sean asked if any paramedic had ever been denied for lack of PCNC or PCMD signature. Larry answered no. Per Pam, she is experiencing a lot of last minute, urgent, requests for signatures for upgrading medics. Larry clarified again that these signatures would not hold up the accreditation applications and they could be turned in later on. Per Graham, this was one of the reasons that they had pushed to streamline the process, but knowing that

the signatures would not hold up the application was good to have. He also expressed his appreciation for NCEMS taking their thoughts into consideration and making the changes that they did.

- **Ambulance Exclusive Operating Area Update**

Per Larry, they received City Ambulance's edits to the EOA draft they had sent. They are close to moving forward to execution of formal implementation of the grandfathered exclusivity for Arcata Mad River Ambulance and City Ambulance. He also reported that they have reviewed Del Norte Ambulance's request for non-competitive exclusivity in Del Norte County. The sale that occurred in 1984 was required to be a "complete" sale in order for this request to be granted, they have determined that the sale was "complete". This makes DNA eligible, and they are moving forward to the next step of the process.

3. **NEW BUSINESS**

None

4. **NORTH COAST EMS REPORT**

Per Larry, they have already given all the updates they have

5. **EMS LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Per Doug, Jaison is in Sacramento but sent in an update. There is nothing in session currently and Chapter 13 committee is still in hibernation.

6. **FACILITY AND PROVIDER REPORTS**

Del Norte Ambulance

Per Charles, their new clinical manager, Erica Blockman, is settling in well to her new position and enjoying the staff development and crew engagement. They continue to add new equipment including the anticipated delivery of two new ambulances. They continue recruitment efforts, despite being fully staffed.

Sutter Coast Hospital

Per Michelle, they have a new registrar in training but nothing further to report

Mad River Hospital

Per Tina, the ER continues to be impacted by behavioral health patients. She reported that they are continuously seeing patients go 36-48 hours without contact with behavioral health clinicians which is in violation of Title 22.

St. Joseph Hospital

Per Kari, they have a new Trauma Medical Director, Dr Wong, who will be on the TAC meeting late today. Nothing further to report

Redwood Memorial Hospital

Per Pam, she would like to echo what Tina had to say. RMH is an eight-bed ED and had five holds the other day. This affects others who need to be seen and continues to be an issue. There is a Field Care Audit circulating for CVA and she is working on one for burns.

Public Health

Per Paige, nothing further.

Larry interjected here to bring up the Xferall presentation that was shown earlier to many in this group and their success in placing behavioral health patients. He reported that they help find and transport patients to available beds with great success. Per Tina, the problem they are facing does not have to do with a lack of software or transport, it's that the patients are sitting in the ERs for so long without even an evaluation. The local hospitals are not designated facilities and these patients are mandated to be seen by behavioral health facilities, which is not happening. Without the evaluation, they are not able to be moved for services needed. Stayce reported that she did get word that from November 8th-12th the mobile response team was short staffed due to external training that was required. This issue should resolve after the 12th. Tina clarified that the fact remains that ERs are not able to refuse patients, yet mental health says no to the ERs all the time. Unfortunately, this results in patients living in the ER, sometimes for up to 10 days, significantly affecting patient care, even causing staff to leave. Kari reported that they have also been losing ER nurses over this issue. Per Larry, despite their efforts to bring behavioral health to the table for these conversations, there is not much that this group can do about this particular issue other than to optimize coordination and collaboration. Per Pam, this group needs to understand that this will be affecting EMS and the community when they have to start holding patients in the ambulances because they do not have room due to the current number of holds. Tina echoed that they are supposed to be serving the entire community, but one small segment of need is taking all of the resources at this point.

Cal Fire

Per Jon, they have rolled out the new PCR program and are working out the kinks in the system. They are still currently fully staffed in Humboldt and Del Norte for the time being.

City Ambulance of Eureka

Per Graham, the ambulances have now been updated with mobile data transmitters, which is one step closer to the Logis dispatch program, which tracks the ambulances with GPS. As of today, they have five new paramedics in the field, three pending, and four that should be up and running by the end of December. They are going to be reevaluating their schedule based off call data to better serve the needs of the community, possibly staffing an additional daytime ALS 3rd crew.

Arcata Mad River Ambulance

Per Doug, they had one EMT upgrade to Paramedic who left soon after being hired for a fire department position. They are also losing another paramedic soon. There is one still in the internship process who should be coming up soon and a part time hire who has started. They are staffing "neutral" at the moment but can see the possibility for shortages in the future.

Sean inquired which medic was leaving for Petaluma and Doug answered that Tim was going in February or March.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING: December 8, 2021 via ZOOM (this was later canceled due to a lack of agenda items).