MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the December 14th, 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

Charles Tweed, EMT-P Del Norte Ambulance

Ron Sandler, EMT-P Del Norte Ambulance

Tim Citro, EMT-P Humboldt Bay Fire

Alyse Dorman Humboldt County Public Health

Candy Stockton, MD Humboldt County Public Health

Sean Anderson, RN Mad River Community Hospital

Tina Wood, 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

Matt Karp, MD North Coast EMS

Rita Henderson, RN North Coast EMS

Pam Collver, RN Redwood Memorial and St. Joseph Hospital

Kari Vandiver, RN St. Joseph Hospital

Lauri Martinich, TNC Sutter Coast Hospital

1. **Introductions/Approval of Minutes from the November 09, 2022 meeting.**
2. **OLD BUSINESS**

* **Paramedic Program Update**

Per Doug, the last program is coming to a conclusion this Friday with the final opportunity for the CapStone test to be taken. That class saw 18 students enter into their field internships. Of those 18, two have dropped for personal reasons, four are taking their CapStone this weekend, and nine have passed the national registry. The current class has 27 students who are taking their first semester final soon and are reportedly well engaged with their clinical rotations.

* **Trauma**

Per Rita, an email was sent to the local trauma program managers and coordinators that the ACS is seeking input on Level 4 Trauma Center standards. The link was added to the chat to provide that feedback.

[ACS Feedback Link](about:blank)

Doug added that his crews really appreciate the trauma reports they receive from Pam, specifically the feedback, follow up, and closure.

* **EMS for Children**

Per Rita, nothing to report.

* **STEMI/Stroke Program Updates**

Per Larry, nothing to report.

* **Behavioral Health Update**

Per Stayce, tomorrow at 1300 is the training update for the 72-hour clock changes and hearings in the ED that start Jan 1, 2023.

Stayce reported that the triage centers are progressing and currently waiting to hear back on possible grants awarded.

* **Infectious Disease Update**

Per Dr. Stockton, there is a lot of Covid and Flu in the county and the RSV rates are slowly starting to come down. She reported that there are currently six patients hospitalized due to Covid but that number may have changed since they received the information.

* **Ambulance Exclusive Operating Area Update**

Per Larry, the Eureka and Arcata EOA’s continue to be monitored and both companies are in compliance with the targets. Larry reported that they will be meeting with the Board of Supervisors next week to receive direction on maintaining the Status Quo, the Grandfathered EOA option, or to move to a Competitive Bid process for EOA. Ron clarified that the board meeting is two weeks out, which is when this discussion will take place.

* **North Coast EMS Policy Update**

Per Kayce, the EMT scope update is posted on NCEMS website and includes the BG finger stick, EpiPen, and internasal Narcan.

Kayce reported that the destination policy was updated and posted but noted that Pam and Sean have new comments regarding a change to that policy.

Per Sean,Currently, all dialysis patients are being bypassed to SJH but, since SJH is not licensed for outpatient dialysis and, unless the patient needs to bypass for other reasons, they should go to the closer facility and not bypass solely on the need for dialysis. Pam added that, currently, all dialysis patients are being bypassed to SJH but ultimately being transferred out of the area if SJH does not have a bed for them, which could happen from any of the hospitals. Discussion ensued between Dr. Karp, Pam, and Doug regarding the appropriateness of a transfer if a procedure could be done, but was not being done based solely on the status of the patient as an inpatient or outpatient.

Per Kayce, the Destination Determination policy lists that it’s the responsibility of the bypassing facility to ensure that the services they’re bypassing for exist at the receiving facility. She added that she’s unsure if the policy needs to state the conditions that don’t exist anymore, or if it’s just an education point. Dr. Karp asked if this was something new, if SJH used to have portable dialysis unit, which Kayce confirmed. She also added that it has been years, possibly 10-12 years ago.

Pam clarified that she’s not referring to patients in extremis in this consideration but for those more stable patients who are only being bypassed because they are a dialysis patient. She asked if she could type up something to send out to Jaison and Doug to review.

Jaison asked how often it was happening and Pam answered that it was something that is happening very very often.

Ron added that he wanted to be clear that any changes made to the policy would be specific to Humboldt County.

Further discussion ensued, ending with Kayce looking into the wording and seeing if it’s needing any changes for not bypassing for services that are not available at the receiving facility.

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

* **Approve Proposed 2023 MAC Schedule**

Per Doug and Larry, this was an accidental addition to the agenda and the schedule was approved last month.

1. **NORTH COAST EMS REPORT**

Per Larry, he did not attend the MHOCSA training but Kayce did and he heard good feedback. They’re now discussing bringing that back to each of the counties down the road. He then clarified that it’s the training program for those who are involved in the EOC response and deferred to Kayce for additional feedback.

Per Kayce, Foxi Keane and Nate McKnight from City Ambulance also attended. She reported that the training was well presented and she thanked Alyse and Patrick for putting it on. She encouraged those who had not attended to take it if it became available again.

Per Alyse, the course was hosted by the Regional Disaster Medical Health Specialist, which is where we get all of our support through the State. It was attended by many different groups and reportedly well attended.

Larry added that they are planning to resurrect the MCI plan update effort. They are hoping to have it completed through public process by the end of the fiscal year.

He also reported that they have contracted last week with their new Lake County HPP EMS Liaison, Morgan Fox. She will be replacing Kimberly Baldwin.

1. **EMS LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Per Jaison, there is a bill forming that will tie a Medi-Cal reimbursement increase to an increase in crew wages. The intent of this bill is to both bring up crew wages and also raise Medi Cal reimbursement. He reported that he is headed to San Leandro tomorrow to do more work on this bill and there is a lot of support from Ambulance and Labor groups. Other than that, there is nothing currently in the works that directly affects this group. He added that he is sure we will see more coming to the surface once the Legislature is back in session after the start of the year.

1. FACILITY AND PROVIDER REPORTS

**Sutter Coast Hospital**

Per Lauri, they are busy like everyone else with the high rates of respiratoty issues but nothing further to report.

**Mad River Hospital**

Per Tina, they are also dealing with high numbers of flu and RSV but coping well with that s they are slowly starting to see RSV numbers come down. She reported that they had a great time at the truckers parade and had a float there.

Per Sean, they are still heavily impacted by the mental health patients and reported that it is greatly degrading their staff morale.

**St. Joseph Hospital**

Per Kari, this is her last MAC meeting and will be replaced by Brandon Cliff. He is already familiar with the position and they are excited to welcome him.

Per Pam, a Respiratory FCA went out and is due by the end of December. She reported that there are lots of people looking for CEs but only 5 have returned the FCA

**Public Health**

Per Dr. Stockton, nothing to report.

Per Stayce, the meeting for tomorrow is still on, despite a technical glitch that is showing it as cancelled.

**Del Norte Ambulance**

Per Charles, crews are back in action and healthy, which is good. They are enjoying their new power cots and Type 1 ambulance. He thanked Sutter Coast for reviewing the 12-Lead transmissions that are now being sent ahead of the crews. He reported that they are looking forward to working with the new PCNC. They are sending Erica to the National Fire Academy in January for the EMS Quality Review course and are looking forward to what she will learn and bring back.

**City Ambulance**

Per Jaison, City has received three new ambulances and has three more on the way. They are excited to get those into rotation and retire some of the older units.

**Hunboldt Bay Fire**

Per Tim, two out of three paramedic students from the last class are licensed and going through the accreditation process. The 3rd is finishing up his internship and will be taking the Capstone on Friday. He reported that they’ve ordered two new units but are experiencing supply chain issues and are hoping to have them delivered by the end of next year.

**Cal Ore**

Per Joe, they have been staying very busy on the air side. The gound side just took delivery of a new Type 3 ambulance and are staying busy there too.

**Arcata-Mad River Ambulance**

Their new bariatric unit is now in service. It has a ramp and loading system that can handle up to a 1600lb patient. They are also holding their company holiday event this week.

Sean asked if there was any update or if anyone knew anything about Phelps and their new/bigger hospital. Doug reported that they are still in the fundraising stage as far as he knew.

The meeting ended by recognizing the passing of Radar Sigsworth, who was well known and loved by many in the group.

**Next Meeting January 11, 2023 at 0900.**