

**MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Minutes of the March 10, 2021 meeting via Zoom

**Present (Via Zoom):**

Doug Boileau, EMT-P	Arcata-Mad River Ambulance
Andrew Gonzales	Cal Fire
Jon Busher EMT-P	Cal Fire
Joe Gregorio EMT	Cal-Ore
Graham Felsenthal EMT-P	City Ambulance
Jaison Chand, EMT-P	City Ambulance
Katie Baza	City Ambulance
Kelly Johnson, LCSW	DHHS—Behavioral Health
Adela Yanez, RN	Jerold Phelps Hospital
Karin White, RN	Jerold Phelps Hospital
Peri Penman, MD	Mad River Hospital
Sean Anderson, RN	Mad River Hospital
Tina Wood, RN	Mad River Hospital
Tyler Grinberg	Mendocino Fire
Pam Mather	North Coast EMS
Stayce Curry, RN	North Coast EMS
Rita Henderson, RN	North Coast EMS
Kayce Hurd, EMT-P	North Coast EMS
Larry Karsteadt	North Coast EMS
Matthew Karp	North Coast EMS
Patrick Lynch, RN	North Coast EMS
Dennis Louy	North Coast EMS-Del Norte
Ian Hoffman, MD	Public Health
Tracie Conner, RN	St. Joseph Hospital
Lisa Neuger, MD	St. Joseph Hospital
Kari Vandiver, RN	St. Joseph Hospital
Mary Moulton, RN	Sutter Coast Hospital
Pati Tucker-Hoover, RN	Sutter Coast Hospital

**1. Introductions/Approval of Minutes from the February 10, 2021 meeting.**

Seeing no updates or corrections to the minutes, the minutes from the February 10, 2021 meeting were approved.

**2. OLD BUSINESS**

- **Trauma, EMS for Children, STEMI/Stroke Program and Behavioral Health Updates**  
Per Rita for both Trauma and EMSC site surveys, we are receiving back Plans of Correction from facilities. We have been reviewing them and sending out responses and are very appreciative of the feedback. Per Larry, they have been working with SJH to set up a STEMI Receiving Center site survey for May 5<sup>th</sup>; we plan to use the same team as previous years which includes Dr. Falck (S-SV EMS), Dr. Karp, Dr. Fehrenbacher (Cardiac Interventionalist), Selinda Shontz and me.

Per Rita, SJH has raised some concerns about using “Trauma Alert” terminology in the field. Per Kari, EMS uses language that is very similar to their internal trauma language to alert the hospital that they are bringing in a critical trauma patient. After reviewing NCEMS policy, she requested clarification on what EMS should be saying so they can adjust their internal policies to be different. Per Rita, the current policy for EMS says they should use “Trauma Alert” while what they’re actually using is “Trauma Protocol”. Per Jaison, City Ambulance can amend our usage, unless it’s easier on the hospital to change their own policies. Per Kayce, Sutter Coast had requested that EMS begin using that language. Larry confirmed that, but clarified that prior to that, EMS was not using any language to alert the hospital that they were bringing in a critical trauma patient. Discussion ensued between EMS agencies and their respective hospitals about current practices. Per Jaison, it seems that there are up to five different ways that trauma language is being used between EMS and hospitals. Lisa suggested that we remove “activation” from the EMS policy to make it less similar to hospital language. Per Kayce, the EMS pre-hospital report Levels 1, 2, 3 are opposite to the hospital level to describe the level of trauma patient. Per Larry, NCEMS will be working with the hospitals to come to a consensus on the trauma wording. Sean inquired if there have been any issues that have arisen due to the language used for incoming traumas. Per Kari there have been no known instances of this. Per Larry it doesn’t seem to be a big problem to solve now, we will discuss and update during the next MAC meeting.

Per Stayce the three county nurse management meeting is set for March 22<sup>nd</sup>. There are two new ER MDs that have been certified to write 5150s. Stayce was able to secure HAF funding through North Coast EMS to offset some of the costs of the hospital bridge program, that establishes a credentialing and privileging pathway for Covid positive behavioral health patients. The Stockton Covid positive facility will be closed before receiving any patients. Both Humboldt and Del Norte have had a surge of minor mental health patients in the Emergency Rooms in the local hospitals. Per Larry, we have reached consensus on how to manage patients going from SV to SJH for Covid testing and medical clearance. Per Tina there are some serious concerns regarding law enforcement’s training on the proper way to write a hold and when it should be done. They have had multiple instances of issues with incorrect paperwork and patients being left unattended without correct steps taken. Per Stayce, behavioral health would be the one to work with the SO regarding that training. Per Tina, both Behavioral Health and the Sheriff’s Department has been notified. Stayce said she will be following up. Sean asked about the possibility of pulling an officer’s ability to write a hold due to negligence or repercussions following an event like that. Per Stayce, law enforcement is required to take annual training on writing the holds and she will be following up.

- **Policy and Protocols**

Per Kayce, there are six policies coming out that are in the final phases. She will resend them out to the Policy Review Committee. Once these are complete, the next step are the respiratory policies. She hopes to be back in the Policy Review Committee starting in April. She submitted the antibiotic policy local scope of practice for interfacility transfers to the State but has not heard back. Per Dr. Karp, the Local Scope of Practice committee should be meeting next week.

- **12-lead EKG Transmission Update**

Per Katie, City Ambulance is looking into pricing for cellular data to run the modems required to transmit. Should have further information within the next couple days.

- **Exclusive Operating Area Update**

Per Larry the drafts of the contracts with City and AMRA are with Jaison and Doug for review and will hopefully be executed in the near future. Per Jaison it's in the hands of the legal department at this time.

- **HPP Medical Disaster Project Update**

Per Patrick, the HPP grant requires redundant communication drills, recent contact with County Public Health brought forward the fact that Covid has made things too busy and could possibly set something up this spring.

- **Infectious Disease and COVID-19 Updates**

Per Dr. Hoffman (during the Paramedic Advisory Committee meeting due to time constraints): we are headed in the right direction, cases and hospitalizations are way down. He is hopeful that we will continue that way but we are also cautiously watching the new variant that has been in Humboldt. He is cautiously optimistic as we begin to allow some gatherings, sports, etc. He advised to stay vigilant on prevention as we move to a high vaccination rate in the county. Dr. Hoffman reported that we are up to nearly 30% of the population that has had at least one shot, the introduction of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine will hopefully increase that number quickly with the single dose.

- **Med-Net System, Medical Control During an MCI & MCI Plan Update**

Per Larry, the Governing Board meets tomorrow and he will be requesting \$1,100 of the Med-Net trust to (Per Jaison) take down the power supply to Horse and take it to Pratt repeater, which would allow the hospitals to talk on the MCI channel during a large scale event. Per Jaison, we would not have coverage on the North Western part of the County. The hospitals would be covered but not the ambulances. This will not include Sutter Coast.

### 3. NEW BUSINESS

- **North Coast EMS Quality Improvement and Case Review Process Update**

Per Larry they are working on assessing and reviewing quality improvement policies and case review processes to make sure everything is covered under Evidence Code 1157.7.

- **Monitoring of Pre-Existing Infusions of Medications within the Paramedic Scope**

Per Doug, he added this to the agenda after internal discussion about carrying medications that are occasionally used for transports and wanted to bring up for discussion the ability to administer and monitor certain medications for transport that are within the scope but used for different purposes. Per Kayce, her understanding was that it would not meet criteria to use the medication in that way due to it being outside the range of the allowed amount. Dr. Karp inquired about the amount of times these meds are used for transport. Per Lisa, SJH has begun to use Ketamine for pain management. Per Jaison, it seems that RMH has sent out several ventilated patients recently and the education would have to back up the ability of the medics to monitor the medications. Larry inquired which meds were being used to

sedate the ventilated patients. Per Jaison, Vecuronium and Levophed are being used and CJ did a review recently that showed that RMH was frequently using Ketamine and Fentanyl, which seems to have gone away. Per Graham, Fentanyl and Versed seem to be used more often. No definitive answer was reached but, per Kayce and Dr. Karp, this will be looked into and discussed further to give more guidance. Per Kari, RMH has a list of approved meds that ground medics can transport and the ER doctors are able to adjust the medications a patient is on to make ground transport easier to manage. Larry asked that it be sent out to everyone. Per Doug, this will stay on the agenda under old business.

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

Per Larry, as mentioned before the Governing Board will be meeting tomorrow. Chair continues to be Supervisor Rex Bohn, Dr. Hoffman is the alternate for Humboldt and plans to attend as well. Supervisor Simon, shifting from alternate to primary on behalf of Lake County, will also be attending, along with Supervisor Darrin Short from Del Norte County.

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

Per Jaison, there are two bills that are actively being worked on. The latest attempt at a 5150 bill is probably of most interest to this group. Assembly member Freddy Rodriguez's office presented language that they did not feel met the objectives they are trying to set. The committee returned with four objectives for their office to include in the bill's language which they will hopefully have back in the next couple days. The Chapter 13 task force is back up and running, with the first meeting being tomorrow morning. Discussion will include EOA grandfathering and 201 recognition of Fire Districts.

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

##### **Sutter Coast**

Per Mary they are dealing with fewer Covid cases but not much to report.

##### **MRCH**

Per Sean nothing new to report.

##### **SJH**

Per Tracie they are currently working on a pediatric respiratory emergency PowerPoint for a field care audit. She is also working with one of the cardiologists for a cardiology review for EMS. Lastly, she's working on a refresher for blood product administration for those who need a recert.

##### **RMH**

Per Pam (via Kari) The OB at RMH is closing sometime this summer and she emailed out the Sepsis field care audit PowerPoint for the months of March and April. Per Larry, the OB department will be closing July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.

##### **Phelps**

Per Adela they are working on getting mobile MRI similar to their current CT.

### **City Ambulance**

Per Jaison most of their paramedics are participating in the Specialty Care Program which has gone on to a kind of field internship for the involved medics to participate in more complicated transports with Cal Ore nurses.

### **Cal Ore**

Per Joe they are continuing to assist Del Norte in their vaccine effort, administering about 2,000 doses in the County. The new Sapphire pumps are now in units on the ground including City Ambulance and a new ambulance will be on the ground in the next few weeks

### **Cal Fire**

Per John Cal Fire has been sending EMTs to assist with the Oakland vaccination clinics. They are starting a new PCR program soon using Image Trend. Final training and the rollout are coming soon. Hopefully it will be used throughout the state soon.

### **AMRA**

Per Doug all their paramedics have completed the Ketamine training and he is still looking at how it is supplied. He is having a hard time finding a suitable sized container based of the allowed dosage.

### **Next Meeting**

Larry suggested that we cancel the April MAC and TAC meetings due to low attendance with several other events occurring at that time. With no disagreement, the April meetings were cancelled. Next meeting will be May 12<sup>th</sup>.