MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the April 12th, 2023 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

Alyse Dorman Humboldt County Public Health

Dino Novello Humboldt County Public Health

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

Brandon Klith St. Joseph Hospital

1. **Introductions/Approval of Minutes from the March 8, 2023 meeting.**

The Minutes were approved as written.

1. **OLD BUSINESS**

* **Trauma**

Per Rita, the Trauma and EMSC plans are due in April and they will go out for review and to the JPA soon. A trauma site survey is scheduled for Sutter Coast Hospital in July and they are planning to schedule the site surveys with St. Joseph, Mad River, and Sutter Lakeside hospitals closer to the end of the year.

Per Larry, he is on the State Trauma Work Group and they are working to edit the trauma regulation to define and include language for retriage.

* **EMS for Children Program Updates**

Per Rita, EDAP site surveys are being coming up for Redwood Memorial and St. Joseph Hospitals, they’re aiming for the end of July for these site sruveys but have yet to schedule them.

* **Paramedic Program Update**

Per Doug, the self survey was submitted at the end of last month and they are now waiting for the site visit to be scheduled. Doug thanked the members of the group who returned the surveys that went out. He noted that the 2021 Annual Report is due the middle of May and employee surveys will be going out to the employers of the previous years’ class. The results for the National Registry test pass rate are not what he was hoping they would be for 2022, with about 84% first time pass rate. Doug asked that the surveys were returned as soon as possible, no later than April 21st.

* **Behavioral Health Update**

Per Stayce, the hearings are taking place in the EDs and she sent the hospitals some information about some of the more complicated scenarios that may occur. The new childrens residential facility that’s going up in Arcata is hosting tours at the end of April.

Stayce reported that Del Norte is working on a Care Star grant to implement a mobile response throughout the County. She reminded the hospitals that AB1001 would put mandates on the emergency departments to employ their own behavioral health staff.

* **Infectious Disease Update**

Per Alyse, Dr. Stockton couldn’t make it today due to a required training program that she is attending. As this training is every Wednesday for the next six months, she asked that, if anyone has specific questions, they reach out prior to the meeting and Alyse can come with answers. Alyse reported that we have had a few confirmed cases of Norovirus but no large outbreaks in the County. Preliminary data from the first quarter of 2023 reports a 50% increase in fentanyl related deaths and threefold increase in deaths by suicide. Larry asked if she had reported a 50% increase in deaths and Alyse clarified that it was a 50% increase in fetanyl deaths.

Larry reported that LA County EMS has an opportunity to participate in a grant with local physicians called Step Triage Telehealth for children. The goal is to use Telehealth to work with children who have been exposed to violence and need support. Larry noted that Humboldt County had the highest rates of children with this experience. They were looking for rural area to participate and NCEMS sent in a letter of support. Per Stayce, they would train the trauma staff via video training to identify the children as risk and connect them with local support.

* **Ambulance Exclusive Operating Area Update**

Per Larry, not much to report as they continue to monitor in Humboldt. In Del Norte County, the Board of Supervisors decided to recommend a competitive bid, which is a very different process. He reported that they’ll be bringing this to the governing board at the end of April. In Lake County, they are waiting on the application from the fire department and will move forward once that’s received.

* **North Coast EMS Policy Update**

Per Kayce, all IFT polices are currently in draft and being reviewed. Essentially, this would consolidate all the current IFT policies into one document.

Kayce also reported that the shortage of Albuterol is widespread and seems to be effecting multiple counties. Because of that, they’re looking to add a different medication to the respiratory policies.

Per Jaison, CVEMS just updated their protocol for this and City Ambulance checked their sources and have access to Levbutoral. He reported that they were all for moving this along and Kayce added that the policy updates wouldn’t delay the implementation of its use.

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

* **Transporting violent/aggressive 5150 patients**
  + **Specifically want to discuss the use of restraints in accordance with NCEMS policy # 6036**

Per Pam, she asked that this item be added to the agenda after recently having a situation with a 5150 out of Redwood where a patient became violent with EMS in the back of an ambulance during transport. She added that NCEMS policy allows for a 5150 patient to be restrained if there is a possibility that they may be violent. Pam asked for clarification as to why EMS could not transport in restraints and that the group explore the options of restraints as she has watched the violence grow in the ED and spill over to the EMS staff.

Per Jaison, there is still the ever present problem that EMS does not have authorization to restrain. He noted that his legislative report would include an update on a proposed bill that provides this. Jaison reported that Global Medical Response is moving forward with restraining all 5150 patients due to the rise in reported violence on EMS workers. Unfortunately, we’re currently in an inbetween place with the ability to do this.

Pam asked that the conversation continue at a meeting dedicated to this discussion. Larry agreed and noted that Dr. Karp should attend. Jaison asked that NCEMS set that up so there can be further talk on the matter. Charles asked that Del Norte Ambulance be included.

Pam brought up the ACV closure and asked that the group discuss what is going to happen during that closure. Per Jaison, when the overcast is low, Arcata is the only viable option. He added that the trees at the end of the runway at Murray field also mean that the planes are restricted and cannot land there after dark. Jaison reported that he’d recently had a meeting with the airport and they are looking for help to convince the county to cut the trees. Jaison noted that letters from the hospitals and health agencies would be helpful is moving forward with this. Doug asked what department of the County was responsible for cutting the trees and Jaison answered that the airport still relies on Public Works to get that done.

Pam asked that this remain on the MAC agenda until the closures are over.

1. **NORTH COAST EMS REPORT**

Per Larry, as Rita mention, the Regional EMS, Trauma, Stemi, and EMS for Children plans are all suddenly due. These should go out for regional review this week and the governing board will be asked on April 27th for approval before submitting to the State.

Per Dennis, they were able to present several active shooter scenarios for multiple facilities in Del Norte County.

1. **EMS LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Per Jaison, he spent the day in Sacramento yesterday on a couple active bills. One of the bills was AB1168, which he reported will allow the cities to excise themselves from the county EMS systems and from LEMSA control. He noted that there was a good showing at the Assembly Health Committee, the chair of which is our Assembly member, Jim Wood.

Per Jaison, AB1001, which Stayce referenced earlier, was introduced during that meeting as well. There was emphasis on the fact that they were planning to get grant funding for hospitals who participated. Jaison added that another bill was introduced that would affect this group through public health, requiring multiple types of business to have nasal administration of Narcan available and be trained by Public Health to use it.

AB1376\*, the 5150 bill, has not yet been heard by committee but should be heard by next week.

AB55, the bill that would tie medical reimbursement rates to employee wages for ambulance providers, should also be heard during that same time. He noted that this bill will probably fly through the committes but is not currently paid for and may be held up for that reason.

Per Larry, AB1168 would also apply to fire services and they had sent an opposed letter as it would destabilize EMS systems.

\*Stayce noted that the 5150 bill was presented with the numbers transposed and is actually AB1376.

1. **FACILITY AND PROVIDER REPORTS**

**Mad River Hospital**

Per Tina, Sean Anderson is no longer with the organization and she hopes to announce a new PCNC shortly as they’re currently in negotiations. Other than that, they are gearing up for nurses week and hospital week.

Stayce asked if there was an update regarding the triage grant. Tina replied that there was no update and that the grant has been fully submitted.

Tina reported that they are now using TransferAll and emphatically noted that the system was working great for them.

**St. Joseph Hospital and Redwood Memorial Hospital**

Per Pam, they are holding a trauma simulation field care audit on April 18th and also an MCI tabletop on May 9th. She and Brandon will also be teaching some Stop the Bleed classes to local schools and they have just returned from TraumaCon where they learned a lot of great information.

**Del Norte Ambulance**

Per Charles, they are looking forward to the students graduating both EMT and Paramedic classes. They are adding the Saphire pumps to their ambulances soon and are excited for the opportunity to keep learning on new equipment. Charles reported that they are also working with the Jail to ensure that all of their officers are CPR certified and discussing Narcan use.

**City Ambulance**

Per Jaison, there are eight City students who are ready to hit the ground running for their internships, which will be starting soon.

**Public Health**

Per Alyse, nothing further to report

Doug reported that the Paramedic Class will be having their MCI exercise this Saturday and are still looking for volunteers to participate. He asked Jaison who to speak with regarding borrowing three of the manual gurneys and was directed to Nate McKnight.

Per Charles, with more notice, they would be able to rally their Explorer group and bring them down to participate.

**Arcata Mad River Ambulance**

Per Doug, they are bringing back their annual awards dinner on May 6th. He reported that this event includes their employees and Mad River hospital staff and this is their first one since 2018. He hopes these will become annual again. Their longterm landlord, who is 101 years old will also be attending this event.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING: **May 10, 2023 via ZOOM**