MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the May 10th, 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, RN City Ambulance/REACH

Katie Baza, EMT-B City Ambulance

Charles Tweed, EMT-P Del Norte Ambulance

Ron Sandler, EMT-P Del Norte Ambulance

Darrin Short Del Norte County Supervisor

Dino Novello Humboldt County Public Health

Willie Sapeda, EMT-P Lake County Fire Chiefs Association

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

Pam Mather, RN North Coast EMS

Rita Henderson, RN North Coast EMS

Pam Collver, RN Redwood Memorial and St. Joseph Hospital

Teresa Bertolini, RN Sutter Coast Hospital

Najia Sadiq, RN Sutter Lakeside Hospital

1. **Introductions/Approval of Minutes from the April 12, 2023 meeting.**

The Minutes were approved as written.

1. **OLD BUSINESS**

* **Trauma, EMS for Children Program Updates**

Per Rita there is a TAC meeting today at 1100. Everyone should have received the separate zoom link for that and there will be further trauma updates discussed in that meeting. No updates for EMS for Children

* **Paramedic Program Update**

Per Doug, the annual report will be sent off today for the 2021 year. He reported that this class had a 96% pass rate for National Registry, with 25/26 students having passed. The final exam for the current program is scheduled for this upcoming Friday and the expectation is that all 23 students will be entering their field internships in about a week. Hospitals should be aware and expecting that the students will be on the radios soon.

* **Behavioral Health Update**

Per Stayce, she recently sent out the updated Coping Resources for Frontline Workers with all the links active. She reported that, in Lake County, they will be having another Xfer All meeting, and that Sutter and Adventist hospitals are both making moves towards this. St Joseph Hospital is also currently looking into the possibility of Xfer All in their facility. She asked Tina if there was an update from them since they were currently using them.

Per Tina, Xfer All is working very well for Mad River Hospital and is being used on a weekly basis. She reported that they are moving forward with the grant and have been contacted twice for additional information and should be hearing the final decision by end of Spring.

Stayce added that Xfer All is putting out data saying that they have been able to find beds within two hours and asked Tina if that was her experience. Tina confirmed this and said they’ve been finding beds within 15 minutes.

* **Infectious Disease Update**

Per Dino, reporting on behalf of Dr. Stockton, there is no update from Public Health.

* **Ambulance Exclusive Operating Area Update**

Per Pam, Del Norte County EOA is on the agenda for the upcoming JPA meeting. The Del Norte Board of Supervisors voted in support of a competitive bid process and now it will be going to the JPA for next steps.

Humboldt County continues in the monitoring phase, the Q1 data was just posted on the NCEMS website. Pam reported that everything looked great and was within the contractually agreed upon standards.

In Lake County, NCEMS had heard from the Lake County Fire Protection District that they are interested in a grandfathered EOA and they are currently waiting on an application.

* **North Coast EMS Policy Update**

Per Kayce, there are quite a few policies in draft form that need to be cleared out so she can continue with the consolidation of the treatment policies. She noted that these needed to be fully completed before posting as having some consolidated and some not would be extremely confusing. She should be sending out four updated treatment policies for review.

Kayce also reported that she had received an email from a paramedic student who had noticed an important numbering error in a cardiac policy that needed to be corrected. She noted that she appreciates the scrutiny and Doug added that he appreciated knowing that the students were being so diligent in their policy review.

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

* **ACV Closure Impacts**

Per Doug, this was brought up at a previous meeting and was added to the agenda so any updates, plans, or changes can be communicated. He asked if there were any comments.

Pam asked Jaison if he had any update on the Murray Field tree issue. Jaison clarified to the group that Pam was referring to the fact that planes could not land at Murray Field at night due to the trees on the East side of the runway. The airport manager had asked for some letters of support to the County so those could be trimmed. Jaison reported that, since then, he learned that Cal Ore cannot land at Murray Field with a patient on board regardless of the trees. He did note that they could land with no patient on board which would help get them back into the county and could potentially effect the next patient. The airport manager also let him know that the tree issue has been bumped up in priority and should be done soon. Jaison added that Cal Ore is able to land at Rohnerville Airport with a patient on board so that is an option as well. They are also looking into ramping up the use of helicopters during these closures that can meet at rendezvous locations such as Kneeland and Berry Summit.

* **EMCC Statutory Changes**

Per Larry, there have been a couple of new statutory bills adopted relative to the Brown Act with new rules in place regarding teleconferencing meetings. He reported that they are still evaluating these changes and preparing to present to the governing board. Larry noted that how this group is defined is going to impact how the rules have to be applied.

Ron added that he is hoping to continue this meeting as a zoom meeting as it makes it much easier for those who have to travel any kind of a distance to be able to attend.

1. **NORTH COAST EMS REPORT**

Per Larry, every year there are five annual EMS plan updates that have to be submitted to the state pursuant to state regulations. Those were originally due in October 2023 but, due to the lifting of the Covid regulations, were now due in March with very little notice. Larry reported that the plans were sent out to the Region for input and have not received anything back. These will be presented to the governing board for approval and then, if approved, sent to the state.

Per Larry, the Q3 state general fund report was submitted and is available on the NCEMS website.

Larry added that the JPA meeting is coming up this week and the agenda includes the Del Norte EOA and the previously mentioned rules regarding teleconferencing.

Kayce reported that she has started working on the MCI plan and asked Ron and Charles if Del Norte had any policies similar to this that she could review. She noted that these would not be released to anyone and, if they didn’t have one, NCEMS could potentially help facilitate that.

Ron noted that they don’t currently have anything formal in place and that law enforcement has their own plan to follow where the ambulance is triaging outside of the hot zone. He added that he would reach out to local law enforcement and schools to see if they had anything is writing that could be passed along.

Charles added that he knew there was a plan to have a county active shooter drill soon so it would be a good time to get something like that in place.

Per Dennis, there is a CHP officer that has put together and is working with the school district on some active shooter training for their staff. He added that he has created a similar program and has done active shooter training at the local healthcare agencies.

1. **EMS LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Per Jaison, AB55 passed the Assembly Health Committee and has moved to the appropriations committee next. AB1376, which permits the detainment of mental health patients, went on consent through the first two committees and Jaison reported that there is a good chance that it will go on consent all the way to the governer’s desk. He reported that they are keeping a close eye on both bills as they move through the various committees.

1. **FACILITY AND PROVIDER REPORTS**

**Mad River Hospital**

Per Tina, they have an offer out to a new PCNC/EDAP Coordinator who has conditionally accepted. She noted that she didn’t have anything further to add on this because it was so new.

**Sutter Coast Hospital.**

Per Teresa, they are preparing their application for the NCEMS survey. She reported that Lori is taking on the PCNC role along with her current role as Trauma Coordinator. They are also hoping to have a Field Care Audit this year.

**Saint Joseph and Redwood Memorial Hospitals**

Per Pam, they held an MCI tabletop drill that was pretty eye opening. She reported that they are planning to hold more drills soon to hone in on the patient tracking during an MCI.

They will be doing two Stop the Bleed classes with Fortuna High students and are hoping to continue these with local schools.

**Sutter Lakeside Hospital**

Per Najia, they are also working on their MCI process. They have not had a drill in several years so they are working with EMS and public health to educate everyone on the process. She reported that she attended the Stop the Bleed course and is getting instructor certified so they can bring that to Lake County as well.

**Del Norte Ambulance**

Per Charles, they have been doing some outreach to local fire departments and doing refresh CPR and First Responder skills. He expressed frustration at the length of time it is taking for Paramedic licensing at the Sate level.

Ron added that they’ll be doing the HSI instructor course in June if anyone is interested.

**Cal Fire**

Per Brook, they have staffed up five of the highway engines about 5 weeks ago and will be staffing up the rest with a big hire coming up in June.

**City Ambulance**

Per Jaison, City has six employees starting their field internships within the next week or so and two more who will be having a slightly delayed start. He echoed Charles’ frustration with the State Paramedic licensing timeline and how it seems to be taking much longer. He noted that it may have come time to bring this issue to the next commissioner meeting. Jaison also thanked Larry for the continued quick turnaround on local accreditation that they see from NCEMS.

Jaison reported that the cutover to Nemsis3.5 is happening in the next 90-120 days and noted that there should be a separate meeting with NCEMS and any pertinent hospital staff that need to be involved. He added that they will need to know if NCEMS will be ready at that time with the new version or if they will need to send their data directly to the state.

Per Kayce, they will not be ready until the end of Summer to receive the 3.5 data and Jaison added that they may be able to slightly delay their cutover to match up with NCEMS if it’s not too far off.

**Lake County Fire Chiefs**

Per Willie, they’ve been coordinating with both hospitals and NCEMS on a resolution to the growing IFT requests. He reported that they ran 14,277 calls county wide in 2022. They put on a hazmat training with Clear Lake Adventist hospital and will be working with them on an MCI drill. He added that, in his experience, these exercises are more beneficial to the participants when it’s done at a smaller scale.

**Arcata Mad River Ambulance**

Per Doug, EMS week is coming up and AMRA held their annual dinner a little earlier this year. He announced that their EMT of the year was Daniel O’Hern and his name has been added to the perpetual trophy. Doug added that the State EMS Authority has recently moved and their phone tree is not currently set up correctly. He noted that the reported delays of licensing may have to do with the turmoil of their move.

Larry added that the State EMS Authority has lost 50-70% of the positions and are overwhelmed in trying to fill those.

**Public Health**

Per Dino, there have been no confirmed cases of xylazine in Humboldt County. In other areas this has been reportedly mixed with fentanyl and is causing overdoses. Dr. Stockton wanted to make sure the group was aware that this is not currently happening in Humboldt County and first responders should continue to administer Narcan to suspected overdoses.

With nothing further to report, the meeting was adjourned.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING: **June 14, 2023 via ZOOM**