MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the June 14th, 2023 meeting via Zoom

**Present (Via Zoom):**

Doug Boileau, EMT-P Arcata-Mad River Ambulance

Brook Hoalton , EMT-P Cal Fire

Katie Baza, EMT-B City Ambulance

Peri Penman, MD City Ambulance/Humboldt County Jail

Charles Tweed, EMT-P Del Norte Ambulance

Ron Sandler, EMT-P Del Norte Ambulance

Darrin Short Del Norte County Supervisor

Tim Citro, EMT-P Humboldt Bay Fire

Cyanne Brocious Humboldt County Behavioral Health

Dino Novello Humboldt County Public Health

Marissa Johanson, RN Mad River Community Hospital

Tina Wood, RN Mad River Community Hospital

Tom Taylor, MD 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

Morgan Fox North Coast EMS- Lake County

Patrick Lynch North Coast EMS

Rita Henderson, RN North Coast EMS

Brandon Kilth, RN St. Joseph Hospital

Kristen Hansen, RN St. Joseph Hospital

Lauri Martinich, RN Sutter Coast Hospital

1. **Introductions/Approval of Minutes from the May 10, 2023 meeting.**

The minutes were approved as written.

1. **OLD BUSINESS**

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

Per Rita, they are still planning on doing the EMSC EDAP and Trauma survey next month for Crescent City.

* **Paramedic Program Update**

Per Doug, students are now in the field and nine have begun submitting their internship shift documentation. Three have reached the 10 contact level and one that’s reached the 20 contact level. Five have taken and passed the psychomotor exam. Doug reported that there are currently 13 registrants for the upcoming paramedic class that starts in August.

* **Behavioral Health Update**

Per Stayce, she connected DNA with a representative from the Yurok tribe who are planning to hold a CIT. Stayce reported that she continues to keep an eye on the previously discussed bills.

Per Cyanne, Semper Virens is currently well staffed. Overall, they are working to expand their Naloxone distribution to all their behavioral health programs where there is patient contact. Currently that is only available at the Jail, CSU, and Semper Virens.

* **Infectious Disease Update**

Per Dino, Alyse Dorman is moving out of the area and will no longer be working for the health department. They are currently looking to hire a new program director but, in the meantime, any communication should be directed to Dino or Brian Carter.

* **Ambulance Exclusive Operating Area Update**

Per Larry, City Ambulance and Arcata Mad River Ambulance continue in the monitoring stage and are meeting all requirements. The Del Norte County Board of Supervisors is currently reviewing funding options for the competitive EOA process and considering possible assistance from the county’s procurement department for designing the RFP.

* **North Coast EMS Policy Update**

Per Kayce, the policies related to Levalbuterol have been sent out.She is not going to update the treatment policy for respiratory distress because she’s currently working to consolidate those policies over time and this is most likely a temporary change. Kayce reported that they are planning to return to their previous system of emailing out policy drafts on a monthly basis and taking feedback from there, instead of attempting to meet in person or remotely.

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

* **Paramedic Shortage Mitigation Strategies**

Per Larry, he added this to the agenda due to a reported shortage of Paramedics in California and also nationwide. He believes it’s important to put together a wide area discussion with other agencies that employ paramedics to see what others are doing to mitigate this staffing issue. He noted that local agencies competing for these paramedics could potentially lead to issues.

Charles, Doug, and Jaison all reported that there current staffing numbers look good but they’re always looking for more paramedics and would like to be involved in the conversation.

Tim added that he’d like to be part of that meeting and has a different perspective from the fire side of things as they are seeing a big impact across the state. Brooke added that CalFire started sponsoring employees through the paramedic program and also contracted someone to come in and do an EMT course to help mitigate the issue of how many left for municipal departments.

Further discussion ensued regarding the nationwide lack of staffing in EMS, Fire, and Law Enforcement.

* **The Center for New Growth and Frontline Workers – Dr. Michael Fratkin**

Dr. Fratkin introduced himself to the group and gave some background, including his work as an internal and pallative medicine doctor, hospice medical director, and launching the St. Joseph palliative care program.

Dr. Fratkin brought a wealth of information regarding the The Center for New Growth and their work with medicine assisted psychotherapy using the only currently approved agent, Ketamine. He discussed the different levels of dosing for the various uses for Ketamine, including its use in the emergency departments, opiod addiction, as an antidepressant, and for psychedelic therapy.

Per Dr. Fratkin, the impact and epidemic of burnout over the last several years has severely affected the healthcare and frontline worker industries and they’re interested in addressing the specific stressors that impact this group. He reported that their work with post traumatic stress patients has produced dramatic results in their mental health and ability to function in their positions. Dr Fratkin then asked the group if anyone felt that this kind of intervention would be beneficial to any of the agencies represented here.

Marissa asked if the medical therapy they provide is combined with other support such as talk therapy or resilience training. Dr. Fratkin replied that the additional support is specific to the agencies they’re working with. For example, the VA asked for medical therapy only and are providing the additional talk therapy themselves. He reported that their “normal” package is a consult appointment with a medical professional to determine if there are any contraindications or clinical safety issues.The next step is a preparation session with a psychotherapist to ensure the patient has the tools to handle this kind of procedure and help set their intentions. Next is a treatment session, which lasts a couple of hours. The next day is a follow up visit to review their experience.

For more information, Dr.Fratkin can be reached via email at [michael@humboldtcenterfornewgrowth.com](about:blank) or the website is www.humboldtcenterfornewgrowth.com

1. **NORTH COAST EMS REPORT**

Per Larry, there has not yet been a response from the State on the five EMS plan updates that were submitted. They are currently working on year end reports and Emergency Preparedness planning which is due by the end of July.The HPP grant is also being worked on by their team.

Per Patrick, via chat because he was experiencing audio issues, they have reviewed the draft Radiation Surge Annex, and will participate with the Mendocino MRSE next week.

Per Morgan, they completed a ham radio drill this morning and are also planning their MRSE for the end of the month.

Larry took the opportunity to remind the group that the STEMI call is scheduled for 1030 today.

1. **EMS LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Per Jaison, reported by Katie, their 5150 bill is still alive. He met with the legislators last week and they are working out some concerns that were raised by a disabilities rights group but is hopeful that they can come to an agreement.

1. **FACILITY AND PROVIDER REPORTS**

**Sutter Coast Hospital**

Per Lauri, they completed a NCEMS survey and she put on her first Field Care Audit. Lauri reported that it was well attended by Del Norte Ambulance and that Pam Mather from NCEMS also attended. She is currently waiting on feedback from that.

**Mad River Hospital**

Per Tina, in the chat, “business as usual”

**St. Joseph Hospital**

Per Brandon, they are preparing for their EDAP survey next month and nothing further

**Del Norte Ambulance**

Per Charles, they recently added a few new EMTs to their staff and gave a special thank you to Cindy who puts on that class and reportedly turns out good EMTs from it.

Echoing Lauri, Charles reported that they attended Sutter Coast’s Field Care Audit and added that they are thankful to see the growth at the hospital as Lauri moves forward in her position.

**Cal Fire**

Per Brook, 55 new firefighters have been hired to fully staff all the stations. Another group of 45 new hires are currently working through the process. By Friday afternoon, the helicopter will be fully available for fire and hoist rescues as they’re finishing the training.

**Humboldt Bay Fire**

Per Tim, nothing to report.

**Arcata-Mad River Ambulance**

Per Doug, there is a resliance fair in Blue Lake this weekend. They will have an ambulance there on display and REACH 19 is planning to attend as well. He invited anyone who was interested to attend.

Doug ended the meeting with a reminder to everyone that the STEMI meeting was on the same link at 1030.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING: **July 12, 2023 via ZOOM**