MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the July 17th, 2023 meeting via Zoom

**Present (Via Zoom):**

Doug Boileau, EMT-P Arcata-Mad River Ambulance

Jaison Chand, EMT-P 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

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

Patrick Lynch North Coast EMS

Rita Henderson, RN North Coast EMS

Pamela Collver, RN Redwood Memorial and St. Joseph Hospitals

Brandon Kilth, RN St. Joseph Hospital

Lauri Martinich, RN Sutter Coast Hospital

1. **Introductions/Approval of Minutes from the June 14, 2023 meeting.**

The minutes were approved as written.

1. **OLD BUSINESS**
* **Trauma**

Per Rita, the October State Trauma Summit has been cancelled by the EMSA. The next TAC meeting will be after the August MAC meeting, she reported that the agenda and minutes from the previous meeting should be going out a couple weeks beforehand.

They will be will be doing a Trauma Designation site visit at Sutter Coast Hospital on Wednesday, July 26th . Pam asked if the dates were schedule for Redwood and St. Joseph yet and Rita responded that nothing has been set in stone yet.

* **EMS for Children Program Updates**

Rita reported that Redwood and St. Joseph Hospitals will be getting their EDAP site visits done on the 27th of July.

* **Paramedic Program Update**

Per Doug, the students are continuing in their field internships. He reported that another six took their National Registry Psychomotor exam and all passed, holding up their current 100% pass rate. A few of the internships should be completed within the month.

Doug added that the upcoming program was just over a month away and that there is still room in the class.

* **Behavioral Health Update**

Per Stayce, she’ll be hosting a behavioral health meeting to include Humboldt, Del Norte, and Lake counties on August 2nd. She reported that each county is currently working on their mobile crisis plan and can come to one place to work together.

As previously reported, the triage center grant was awarded and they’re working towards a goal of being up and running by 2026. In addition to that, Humboldt also received a bridge housing grant for 7.1 million dollars to help provide more crisis housing options. Del Norte is preparing for their second interview for the Care Star grant process for their mobile crisis response team throughout the county.

Stayce clarified that these mobile crisis implementation plans are different that the current crisis plans as these are geared more towards the field.

* **Infectious Disease Update**

Per Doug, Dr. Stockton was not able to attend however she did pass along that there are currently five patients admitted to Humboldt County hospitals with Covid and she wanted to stress the importance of the booster vaccines.

* **Ambulance Exclusive Operating Area Update**

Per Larry, nothing to report.

* **North Coast EMS Policy Update**

Per Kayce, she has been working to list the draft policies on the websites with the hyperlinks so that those who are using the apps on their phones are better able to view and be involved in these changes.

NCEMS is going to be returning to the drafts going out by email and having a set time period for comments.

* **ACV Closures**

Per Doug, this was not on the original agenda but is important for this group to have the information and opportunity to discuss. He then deferred to Pam for the scheduled closure dates and times.

Per Pam, ACV is closing the main runway at night and will continue that off and on through December. They have been speaking with City Ambulance and Cal Ore to have a plan in place to get critical patients out of the area. If the weather is good, Murray Field or Rohnerville are an option. Foggy weather could cause delays but they’re also being creative with Kneeland airport when possible.

She reported that the hospitals are putting their efforts into Neuro surgery coverage and only have two days that are currently not covered.

1. **NEW BUSINES****S**
* **Debrief from Semi-Annual Regional Retention Meeting (June 23, 2023)**

Per Larry, there was representation from Humboldt Bay Fire, Del Norte Ambulance, Lake County, and City Ambulance at this meeting and a good discussion was had regarding the retention practices of different agencies during a time of Paramedic staffing shortages. Larry explained to the group that there is a nationwide shortage of paramedics, especially in more rural areas who are in competition with the higher paying city areas. He continued with listing some of the practices that were reviewed in the meeting that each agency is utilizing to recruit.

Per Tim, there is bill (AB1254) moving through the legislator that would take the average pay of the top 20 municipal fire departments statewide and apply that pay to all CalFire employees. He added that there is currently no opposition to this bill and he expects it to pass, which would only add to the challenges they’re already facing to staff.

Larry noted that he will bring this issue to the EMSACC meeting in December.

1. **NORTH COAST EMS REPORT**

Per Larry, they have not yet heard back from EMSA regarding the five EMS plan updates that they submitted. He reported that Kayce is working on the HPP Disaster grant year-end report and they’ve had several calls with the three counties regarding next years’ plans and goal.

Per Kayce, the year end reports have now been submitted. They will be sending out their MCI plan to the group for review and comment. She advised that she would like to arrange a review of the treatment and MCI policies that are in need of an update.

Larry announced that they had met the new Emergency Services Manager for Sutter Coast, Deborah Uttonburgh.

1. **EMS LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Per Jaison, the Chapter 13 task force is getting ready to get started again in the next 60-90 days. It will be a state led EMSA group with Jaison representing the ambulance association, backed up by the manager of Hall Ambulance. He reported that the last one stalled about a year ago after not making the timeline, which led to the need to start the whole process over again.

He reported that almost all the bills that were being reported on in previous meetings have stalled in one way or another. The exception to that is their 5150 bill which continues to move through each committee unanimously.

1. **FACILITY AND PROVIDER REPORTS**

**Sutter Coast Hospital**

Per Lauri, they are preparing for their upcoming site surveys which are scheduled for the 26th of July

**Mad River Hospital**

Per Dr. Taylor, nothing to report.

**St. Joseph Hospital**

Per Pam, they are preparing for their EDAP survey in July. She also reported that they are putting on a full-blown disaster drill in October and that her email will be in the chat if anyone wants to help or participate. (pamela.collver@stjoe.org)

**Del Norte Ambulance**

Per Charles, they put their third new ambulance into service and the crews are enjoying that.

Ron added that if any agencies have trainings coming up, please send the information to him so he can start to create a training calendar.

**City Ambulance**

Per Jaison, they have lots of interns in the field and are looking good for staffing. He reported that they’re running dual ALS on first crew on three or four days a week.

**Humboldt Bay Fire**

Per Tim, nothing to report. He asked Pam if the disaster drill is going to be onsite and added that it is probably time to work with the hazmat team for a decon drill as well. Pam confirmed that the disaster drill is going to be onsite at the hospital.

**Arcata Mad River Ambulance**

Per Doug, Arcata has their annual ACV tabletop exercise coming up on the 26th at 10am. On August 10th they will be participating in the annual Cal Poly Humboldt’s Residence Hall exercise. If anyone is interested, Doug asked that they reach out to him.

7. The next meeting will be August 9 at 0900 via Zoom. .