

MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the August 11th, 2021 meeting via Zoom

Present (Via Zoom):

Doug Boileau, EMT-P	Arcata-Mad River Ambulance
Jon Busher, EMT-P	CalFire
Graham Felsenthal EMT-P	City Ambulance
Jaison Chand, EMT-P, RN	City Ambulance/REACH/Calstar
Katie Baza	City Ambulance
Darrin Short	Del Norte County Supervisor
Sean Anderson, RN	Mad River Hospital
Jason Orlandi, RN	Mad River Hospital
Peri Penman, DO	Mad River Hospital
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, MD	North Coast EMS
Patrick Lynch, RN	North Coast EMS
Dennis Louy	North Coast EMS-Del Norte
Paige Rowley	Public Health
Ian Hoffman, MD	Public Health
Lisa Neuger, MD	St. Joseph Hospital
Kristen Hansen, RN	St. Joseph Hospital
Phillip Maddux, RN	St. Joseph Hospital
Pati Tucker-Hoover, RN	Sutter Coast Hospital

1. Introductions/ Approval of Minutes from the July 14, 2021 meeting. Minutes were approved as presented.

2. OLD BUSINESS

• **Paramedic Program Update**

Per Doug, the last class is in field internships. The first chance to take their CapStone is coming up and there are currently four students who are eligible to take it. There are still two students who have only just started their internships but the rest are well into theirs. There are 24 students signed up for the next paramedic class and one more in the enrollment process, which is starting on August 21. If you have any interest in helping with the class this year or want to do a special presentation, please contact Doug.

• **Trauma**

Per Rita, the TAC meeting that was scheduled today was cancelled. NCEMS sent out letters to MRCH and Sutter Hospital for follow up on their Trauma surveys that were done in June. Paper surveys will be done in December to determine if they will continue with the level-4 trauma designation. Per Dr. Neuger, SJH still does not have 24 hr Neurosurgeon coverage as one of theirs is out on leave. Kari has been notifying everyone. Doug asked if City Ambulance Dispatch was being notified of the times with no coverage as they were not aware during a time of need recently. Per Dr. Neuger there was some confusion regarding who was supposed to be sending out the notifications but that they would make sure to follow up with that.

- **EMS for Children**

Per Larry, the Pediatric Readiness Survey has been sent out and completed by all but one facility in Lake County.

- **Behavioral Health**

Per Stayce, they've sent out an updated list of the facilities accepting 5150 Covid positive patients. If you did not receive it, please reach out to her to obtain a copy. She reported that with the latest surge in Covid cases, the hospital bridge program is more important than ever. She reported that there is one ER MD at SJH and four at MRCH that can rescind a 5150.

- **STEMI Program Updates (including 12-lead EKG Transmission)**

Per Larry the STEMI receiving center designation process continues. Per Jaison, City was successfully able to transmit to SJH with the cellular service on their iPads, some of them do not have the hotspot access. Per Katie, City is working with IT to add hotspot access to those iPads that do not currently allow it.

- **Infectious Disease Update**

Per Dr. Hoffman, we are in the midst of the largest surge we've seen so far, both in the County and the state as a whole due to the Delta Variant. The vaccine is the best line of defense as it can also lessen the effects of those even with the variant. Dr. Hoffman reported that the counties with higher vaccination rates and similar case counts as ours are not seeing the same kind of impact to their hospitals as we are. Masking has been reinstated across Humboldt and they are asking people to reconsider large gatherings. There is a lot coming in the near future regarding testing and vaccine mandates included hospitals and facilities to require employees and visitors to require proof of vaccine or negative test to enter. Larry asked if there had been an increase in transports due to the variant. Per Jaison, City has seen no increase. Per Doug, AMRA has seen a slight increase. Per Dr. Hoffman, Sutter Coast Hospital is extremely impacted with double if not triple the caseloads they were seeing last year. They have brought in State resources to support. Per Dr. Neuger, SJH had 8/20 ICU beds filled with Covid patients and are cancelling elective surgeries due to lack of beds. Redwood Memorial is currently holding four Covid patients in their ER that they are trying to transfer out. Phelps has been bypassing Covid patients to SJH. Per Pari, Sutter Coast has 17 Covid patients, all elective surgeries are cancelled, and they are opening up the rehab for overflow. Per Sean, MRCH has seven Covid patients and are possibly planning on making a wing in Med/Surg a Covid wing. They are having daily meetings regarding elective surgeries but have not had to cancel them at this point.

Per Dr. Hoffman, besides Covid, California is also seeing a raise in syphilis rates. He encourages new protocols for testing and treating in our hospitals.

Per Larry, a survey went out to the local agencies because the State wanted opinions on vaccine mandates for EMS personnel. At this point, it does not seem that the providers are in favor of the mandates. Per Dr. Hoffman, the hospitals are going to be requiring the vaccine or test and public health is trying to figure out how that will be applying to EMS, Fire, and Police. Per Jaison, City has not reached a mandate, but we are possibly headed that way. Per Doug, AMRA has 100% vaccination rates, but he is still not in favor of a mandate. He also

reported that they are wearing N95s on all calls and into the hospitals, which should be sufficient from his point of view. Kristen asked if it would be possible to have vaccine records on file for EMS personnel. Per Jaison, they are pushing for 100% vaccination but that may be a possibility as we proceed. Dr. Penman asked if EMS personnel are required to have the other vaccines and what the difference is between that and the Covid vaccine. Jaison responded that he will be sending her the email that just went out to unvaccinated personnel. Per Jon, all CalFire employees are required to vaccinate or test and unvaccinated personnel are required to be masked at all times.

- **North Coast EMS Policy Update**

Per Kayce, she is getting caught up on policies that are updated and ready to be posted. The MedNet and Destination policies are in progress waiting on feedback from the hospitals. NCEMS resubmitted their request to continue Covid vaccine and testing for paramedics. The EpiPen policy is awaiting Dr. Karp's final approval.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- **Base Hospital Discussion during an MCI**

Per Doug, the current policy is that whatever hospital is the base hospital in the area of the MCI is the coordinating base hospital. Per Larry, the MedNet changes that they needed to have happen to make these changes have occurred. The repeaters have been set up to be able to communicate across all areas during an MCI. Jaison confirmed that dispatch would be able to remind crews to switch to the MCI channel. Per Dr. Neuger, she feels that one hospital should be designated at the base for all MCIs as that allows them to be good at what they do and that the hospital in question should be SJH. Dr. Karp agreed and added that it would allow them to focus the training and ambulance personnel would never question which hospital they should be contacting. Sean asked if techs would be removed from answering the radio in that situation (at SJH) and Dr. Neuger responded that a tech would take the initial radio contact but they would develop procedures to change that in the case of an MCI. Per Kari, they've done multiple MCI drills since the last one and are developing a team. Per Larry, NCEMS would be creating a policy change depending on what is decided. Sean asked how Hoopa would be included as they would not have the same kind of radio access to SJH. Per Kayce, they will be looking into what that would look like as there are obviously issues regarding communication holes.

4. NORTH COAST EMS REPORT

Per Larry, he is Co-Chairing an EMSAC behavioral health committee and will be including Stayce in the meetings they are setting up regarding behavioral health EMS patients.

5. EMS LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Per Jaison, nothing new to report

6. FACILITY AND PROVIDER REPORTS

SJH

Per Kristen, nothing new to report.

MRCH

Per Jason, Tina is on vacation and he is working to get back up to speed as he settles into his position. Per Sean, they are still getting crushed by mental health and now Covid

Cal Fire

Per Jon, the PCR program is starting to rollout but the training is delayed due to so much staff being out on fire. He's working on figuring out how to give NCEMS access to their PCRs.

City Ambulance

Per Jaison, they have 12 interns in the field, three of them have almost reached their contacts/hours and then they expect to have another three every 30 days or so. We should be expecting to see an influx of new paramedics shortly. They also hired five new EMTs and are still looking to fill three or four more spots.

Arcata Mad River Ambulance

Per Doug, they are on a fire standby in Willow Creek and will be there until they are no longer needed.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING: **September 8, 2021 via ZOOM**