MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the September 13th, 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 City Ambulance/REACH

Katie Baza, EMT-B City Ambulance

Charles Tweed, EMT-P Del Norte Ambulance

Darrin Short Del Norte County Supervisor

Candy Stockton, MD Humboldt County Public Health

Dino Novelo Humboldt County Public Health

Marissa Johanson, RN Mad River Community Hospital

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

Matthew Karp, MD North Coast EMS

Pam Mather, RN North Coast EMS

Rita Henderson, RN North Coast EMS

Pamela Collver, RN Redwood Memorial and St. Joseph Hospitals

Sarah Park, RN Redwood Memorial and St. Joseph Hospitals

Brandon Klith, RN Saint Joseph Hospital

Lauri Martinich, RN Sutter Coast Hospital

1. Introductions/Approval of Minutes from the August 9, 2023 meeting.

The minutes were approved as written.

1. **OLD BUSINESS**

* **Trauma**

Per Rita, they are still planning site surveys for SJH, MRCH, and Sutter Lakeside in the first week of December.

* **EMS for Children**

EDAP surveys were conducted at SJH and RMH. She reported that they went really well and they’re hoping to have the letters out by the end of the week.

* **Paramedic Program Update**

Per Doug, since the last meeting, seven of last year’s students have finished the program, six of them have tested National Registry with four passing. Three students should finish by the end of the month. He reported that the new class has started and has 23 students.

* **Behavioral Health Update**

Per Stayce, all three counties have met to exchange information while working to implement their mobile response units and are aiming for a date in December. She reminded the group that Del Norte received a CareStar grant of $750,000.00 and the Eureka Alternate response team is working on the last steps of their own CareStar grant and Stayce feels confident that they’ll be awarded one as well.

* **Infectious Disease Update**

Per Dr. Stockton, Humboldt County is seeing an increase in hospitalizations for Covid and they’re working on a plan for the upcoming winter and respiratory illness season.

* **Ambulance Exclusive Operating Area Update**

Per Pam, the third quarter is ending soon so there is no update as of now. Once the quarter ends, there will be significantly more data and information to report and post on the website.

* **North Coast EMS Policy Update**

Per Kayce, she’s adding the comments into the IFT policy and then they’ll go to Dr. Karp and Larry for final review. She reported that she and Wendy have been working on the EMT BLS policies and separating out the first responder and EMT with Epi Pen and Narcan.

* **Airport Closure Update**

Per Jaison, through December there will be intermittent evening closures but that the bulk of the work has been completed.

* **HPP Disaster Coalition Meeting Plans**

Per Larry, they’re working to set up a meeting to ensure that everyone is on the same page regarding their connection and communication to the MHOAC. They’ll be reviewing the agencies current process to be sure there are no gaps. Doug asked if anyone from the County was involved and Larry reported that Dino was on the invite list.

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

* **Use of Restraints**

Per Larry, his understanding is that there was discussion at the previous meeting regarding the use of physical restraints and children. He reported that, since then, they’ve held a meeting with representatives from the local hospitals and Humboldt Bay Fire to discuss their options for interfacility transports. There is a plan in place for a larger meeting, to include additional agencies, once feedback is received from those who attended the original meeting. Larry expressed his concern with physical restraints being used on children in long distance transports and asked to open a discussion regarding this.

Pam responded that, for some time now, City Ambulance has required that minor 5150 patients are restrained and get a parent signature. Jaison confirmed Pam’s understanding and elaborated that they’ve been restraining minors for about three years. He clarified that the upcoming change would be restraining all patients on 5150 holds. Jaison added that this was a policy going into effect on a larger scale as the result of multiple patient issues regarding safety. He acknowledged that the use of restraints is a big deal and needs to be approached and handled in a compassionate way while still keeping all parties safe. City Ambulance’s training supervisor, Kristen, will be holding a town hall with all employees to review the new policy. The implementation date of this change has been pushed back to November 1st to give adequate time for in person training for all staff. Jaison noted that this training will include the way to properly restrain a patient to allow movement as well as the best way to discuss this with the patient and their families.

Stayce asked to be invited to the town hall and Jaison confirmed that an invite would be sent. She continued by adding that this was a GMR policy that was being implemented nationwide and not a North Coast EMS policy or something that was requested by the doctor and it was important for the patient that the documentation reflect that.

Per Sarah, patients on a 5150 hold are still in charge of their medical decisions and would have to agree to the restraints. She asked if there was a plan for those patients who ultimately refused to be restrained during transport. Jaison said, from their perspective, the 5150 does give us the ability to restrain the patient for their safety. He added that this policy has already been rolled out in many different areas and it does seem to be working. He again brought up that the communication with the patient and family is going to be key in this upcoming change.

Stayce added that, while these patients may not be restrained while in the hospital, this is specific to the transport and should be documented as such. This is the transport company’s policy for 5150 patients.

Charles asked to clarify if this policy was for 911 transports or interfacility transports. Jaison confirmed that this particular policy was specific to interfacility transports. Charles expressed concern that there may be facilities that would not accept a patient in restraints. Jaison responded that, while surveying prior to implementation of the policy, they had not been able to find a facility that would state that they did not accept patients in restraints.

Further discussion ensued with questions from local facilities. The following was determined during this discussion.

-The four-point restraints will be applied by ambulance staff, not hospital staff.

-City Ambulance will transport the patient in restraints. If the patient refuses to be restrained, the hospital will be asked if they’re still requesting the transport.

-Many instances of patient elopement and unsafe situations were with patients who were not labeled as a danger to themselves or others and would not have otherwise been restrained.

-This policy is for physical restraints and not chemical.

-There are many agencies and even LEMSA’s who have a 100% restraint during transport for 5150 policies.

1. **NORTH COAST EMS REPORT**

Per Larry, all five annual plan updates were approved by the State. Minor changes were made to the regional plan. They just completed their second CDPH disaster preparedness audit, which is done every three years, and have received feedback and recommendations regarding current plans and policies. He also reported that they will be postponing their September governing board meeting due to a lack of agenda items.

1. **EMS LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Per Jaison, AB1576 is going to the Governor’s desk. All the other bills of interest have died somewhere along the line.

Jaison reported that the Chapter 13 Task Force has been dissolved before their first meeting and it has turned into a listening session. He believes that they will be forming draft regulations from these sessions rather than starting from scratch.

1. **FACILITY AND PROVIDER REPORTS**

**Sutter Coast Hospital**

Per Lauri, they’ve been experiencing some less smokey days but are still dealing with air quality issues.

**Mad River Community Hospital**

Per Marissa, they are working through a period of reset. She reported that they are going through a lot of changes and updates as she’s settling into her new position. Marissa proposed that Field Care Audits become a regional collaboration rather than put on separately. She also suggested moving to quarterly rather than monthly, pulling cases from each month in the quarter.

Larry asked what the current requirements were for Field Care Audits. Pam noted that the policy requires a monthly audit but they do not have enough turnout for that to happen. Larry noted that they were flexible to updating the policy to reflect. Marissa added that the language of the policy required a monthly field care audit unless other arrangements were made which she thinks will allow for her proposal to be within the policy guidelines.

Jaison and Doug both voiced their support for the changes.

**St. Joseph Hospital**

Per Pam, she had an upcoming Field Care Audit and more information will be coming soon. She and Brandon are working on their Trauma Survey as well.

**Del Norte Ambulance**

Per Charles, they’ve been dealing with the aftermath of the fire that encroached on the powerlines that supply power to the County. He noted that the loss of power over these last couple weeks has provided some insight into areas of opportunity for the future and also unique situations and opportunities to help and support their community.

Charles reported that all of their Medics are now Hep/Nitro certified and they added their third new Type 1 ambulance to their fleet.

**CalFire**

Per Brook, they are no longer hosting a basecamp locally and all resources on the Willow Creek fires are federal.

She reported that they have completed their annual hiring and are currently at peak staffing. They have transitioned to the NEMSIS 3.5 version of ImageTrend and are using that now. CalFire is working on their policies for what BLS supplies to stock on every vehicle to create consistency across the board for their crews.

**City Ambulance**

Per Jaison, they are also converting to the NEMSIS 3.5 and will be reporting directly to the state.

Kayce added that they’re required to also report that information to NCEMS as well.

Further discussion ensued regarding when ICEMA would be able to accept the 3.5 data and how that will look in the meantime.

**Arcata Mad River Ambulance**

Per Doug, nothing to report.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING: **October 11, 2023 via ZOOM**