

MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the September 8th, 2021 meeting via Zoom

Present (Via Zoom):

Doug Boileau, EMT-P	Arcata-Mad River Ambulance
Graham Felsenthal EMT-P	City Ambulance
Jaison Chand, EMT-P, RN	City Ambulance/REACH/Calstar
Katie Baza	City Ambulance
Virginia Plambeck, EMT-P	City Ambulance
Darrin Short	Del Norte County Supervisor
Tim Citro, EMT-P	Humboldt Bay Fire
Sean Anderson, RN	Mad River Hospital
Stayce Curry, LPT 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
Ian Hoffman, MD	Public Health
Paul Bugnacki, LCSW	Public Health
Tim Howard	Public Health
Pam Collver, BSN	Redwood Memorial Hospital
Lisa Neuger, MD	St. Joseph Hospital
James Goldberg, MD	St. Joseph Hospital
Kari Vandiver, RN	St. Joseph Hospital
Kristen Hansen, RN	St. Joseph Hospital
Tracie Conner, RN	St. Joseph Hospital

1. Introductions/Approval of Minutes from the August 11, 2021 meeting.

2. OLD BUSINESS

- **Paramedic Program Update**

Per Doug, four students from the 2020-2021 class have completed their internships and are now eligible for the National Registry exam but he does not know if any of those four have taken the test. The rest of them are continuing their internships with about half of them finishing the last quarter of the internship. The new Paramedic Program began on Saturday, August 21st with only 18 students. There were 20 originally and two have dropped due to illness and a change of mind. Doug reported that this is the smallest class in some time, attributing that to the new Paramedic Program opening in Mendocino. Besides the locals, students are here from as far south as Sonoma County and have also come from Oregon, Del Norte, and Shasta Counties.

- **Trauma**

Per Rita, there is a TAC meeting today that starts at 1100. Agenda and link have gone out. There is a State of California virtual Trauma summit coming up. Admission is

free and it's scheduled for the morning of Oct 6th. Please reach out to Rita if you are wanting the link.

- **EMS for Children**

Per Larry, they are carrying on with the hospitals designated as EDAPs. The EDAP trust fund is just waiting for those who are interested in designation and use, if you are interested contact either Larry or Rita. The Pediatric Readiness survey is due soon but most of the hospitals have already submitted theirs and are exceeding the national average.

- **Behavioral Health**

Per Stayce, the next nurse manager meeting is scheduled for Oct 18th, but that may be reevaluated due to the number of meetings they have leading up to that date. SJH currently has one MD that can rescind 5150s, MRCH has three. Behavioral Health has started to work towards having peer coaches available in the ED. As a reminder, the copy of the 5150 is equivalent to the original, despite the age of the patient. Pam asked if the list of facilities accepting Covid positive patients could be updated as it currently seems to be out of date. She reported being told that some of those facilities will not accept patients until 10 days after diagnosis. Per Paul, they have struggled with staffing issues recently for SV and CSU, even having to shut CSU down at times due to low staffing. He asked that we bear with them as they are recruiting and staffing. He asked for the information from Pam regarding the facilities who were not accepting the Covid positive 5150 and, per Pam, they currently have a patient who is looking for facility acceptance.

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

Per Graham, City is working on linking all the monitors to the iPads and should be up and running after replacing a sim card on one of the iPads that currently will not connect.

- **Infectious Disease Update**

Per Dr. Hoffman, we have seen signs of a plateau over the last couple weeks. County wide, we are seeing about 30-40 Covid patients in hospital beds, which has also plateaued over the last week. The need for help and resources is great and they're finding it hard to get those. Once we see the numbers coming down, it's still about 2-3 weeks before the hospitalizations will follow suit. Dr. Hoffman encouraged everyone to keep up with masking, distancing, and encouraging those who are not to get vaccinated. Larry asked about the rates of breakthrough cases and Dr. Hoffman reported that about ¼ of the hospitalizations they're seeing are of vaccinated people. The vaccine seems to be doing its job in those who receive it. Doug asked if there were any predictions regarding the upcoming flu season. Per Dr. Hoffman, he thinks that we will see a bigger flu season than last year since the precautions that were in place that prevented transmission (capacity, closures, etc.) have been lifted. He did say that a lot will depend on if the mask mandate carries through the winter or if it is lifted earlier than that. He encouraged flu vaccines and said that they are starting to become available in the county.

- **North Coast EMS Policy Update**

Per Kayce, the Destination Determination policy and the MedNet policy were sent out for review. She asked that we focus on the language of the policies and is aware that some policies are in need of update since they have not been updated since

2012. This is a process and will be cleaned up as she goes. Kayce asked for language for the Trauma Destination policy that allowed for base hospital contact for notification of bypass without requesting permission.

- **Base Hospital Discussion during an MCI**

Per Larry, the current system is that the base hospital during an MCI is the one who is closest to the incident and would be involved in providing transport decisions. Kayce reported that the issue is the communication for the receiving hospitals not knowing how many patients are going to be coming their way. She suggested further training and reevaluating the use of the policy before moving forward with this discussion and determination. Her concern is that a hospital that is not well trained or well versed in an MCI would end up being the base and not know how to handle it. Per Larry, the repeaters can now all talk to each other, which is new, leaving only a few blank spaces along 299 and some places North. Larry also referred to the fact that recently, there were two MCIs that occurred at the same time and hospitals were not aware of that. He suggested that we hold off on this discussion due to being in the midst of a Covid surge and work on the rough spots and training/policy prior to implementation. This will stay on the agenda and also have a separate meeting scheduled for further discussion. Larry requested that Darrin give a Covid update for Del Norte County. Darrin reported that they were also experiencing a surge and feeling the pressure of hospitalizations.

- **CAE BLS Deployment Plan**

Per Jaison, City was not the one who added this item to the agenda but he reported that this policy was put into place on September 1st he is not aware of how many times it has been used since but has not heard of any problems. Larry requested that he elaborate on the deployment plan. Per Jaison, BLS units will respond to code 2 calls at specific facilities. Those BLS units would also respond to a code 3 call along with the ALS unit if the ALS unit is responding from a certain distance out. Tim reported that a BLS unit responding to a call where Humboldt Bay Fire is staffed ALS brings up serious issues for them. From his perspective, there are no current NCEMS policies regarding contacting the hospitals for permission to transport if the call is not ALS. He is not concerned with the code 2 responses but is concerned with the possibility for abandonment issues that may arise as BLS units are responding to code 3 calls. His concern is that they are going to be riding in more frequently which is not what they want. Larry asked how NCEMS policy fit in regarding BLS handoff. Per Kayce, they were implemented in the late 90's with the intent for Paramedics to be able to hand off to EMT-2s. She reported that several LEMSAs have policies in place and are currently doing this. She plans on bringing this policy to the policy review committee to allow for hand off without contacting the base hospital. Per Larry, another concern is responding code 3 to alpha patients, he asked why that would happen. Jaison clarified that the EMD process sends a code 2 response to an Alpha call. Larry also confirmed that many LEMSAs are currently allowing the BLS handoff currently. Kari asked if they should be expecting to see these BLS transports happening or if City and NCEMS would be working these policies out together. Larry clarified that City had already launched the BLS response and they should expect to be seeing it.

3. NEW BUSINESS

Per Doug, no new business

4. NORTH COAST EMS REPORT

Larry acknowledged the hard work and dedication that Dr. Neuger brought to her position. He said that she was going to be stepping down and asked who her replacement would be. Dr. Neuger clarified that she was stepping down as Trauma Director but would still maintain her position clinically at the hospital. Per Kari, Dr. Tuan Hoang is starting soon as the new Trauma Director. Larry then directed a welcome to Dr. Goldberg as the new PCMD at SJH. Per Larry, there is a JPA meeting scheduled for September 23rd that may end up being postponed due to not having any action items. NCEMS is working on the review of eligibility for Del Norte Ambulance's EOA request.

5. EMS LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Per Jaison, all legislation that would've directly impacted us has stalled in the legislature. There is a meeting on Monday for the CAA to discuss EMSA giving direction to LEMSAs regarding loosening regulations on licensing and accreditation to allow more portability. This is not something we have dealt with locally Nothing further to report.

6. FACILITY AND PROVIDER REPORTS

St. Joseph Hospital

Per Tracie, she is excited to work with Dr. Goldberg as the new PCMD. She is working with Dr. Gerdes to do an audit and that information will be going out soon. Larry reported that Dr Hart passed away. Kari reminded the group that SJH does not have Neuro Surgery coverage for certain days this next month. That information is being sent out for distribution.

City Ambulance of Eureka

Per Jaison, Graham Felsenthal has been promoted to Operations Manager to handle a lot of the internal operations at City Ambulance. Per Graham, City is staffing up as much as possible and reported that they only have two currently in the paramedic program. City is still working on their 12 Lead transmission

Mad River Community Hospital

Per Sean, they are still struggling with mental health and Covid. Per Tina, mental health struggles continue. They are still seeing Covid cases but not admitting many.

Humboldt Bay Fire

Per Tim, nothing new to report.

Arcata Mad River Ambulance

Per Doug, they've had a crew out at the Monument Fire since August 9th. They may be being moved or released soon.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING: **October 13, 2021 via ZOOM**