

# MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the March 11, 2020 meeting held at Redwood Memorial Hospital

## **Present:**

Doug Boileau, EMT-P	Arcata-Mad River Ambulance
Joe Gregorio, EMT	CAL-ORE/REACH
Jaison Chand, EMT-P	City Ambulance
Tim Howard	DHHS—Public Health
Ron Sandler, EMT-P	Del Norte Ambulance
Tim Citro, EMT-P	Humboldt Bay Fire
Louis Bruhnke, EMT-P	North Coast EMS
Matthew Karp, MD	North Coast EMS
Patrick Lynch	North Coast EMS
Heather Parker, RN	Redwood Memorial Hospital
Tracie Conner, RN	St. Joseph Hospital
Thomas Dewey	Sheriff's Office

## **Via phone:**

Paul Bugnacki	DHHS—Mental Health
Daryn Nimmo	DHHS—Mental Health
Sean Anderson, RN	Mad River Hospital
Peri Penman, DO	Mad River Hospital
Scott French, MD	Mad River Hospital
Stayce Curry	North Coast EMS
Rita Henderson, RN	North Coast EMS
Larry Karsteadt	North Coast EMS
Kayce Hurd, EMT-P	North Coast EMS

## **1. INTRODUCTIONS/APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The 01/08/20 minutes were approved.

## **2. OLD BUSINESS**

### **Paramedic Program Update**

Per Doug: The current class has twenty students (the class started with twenty-nine). From the previous class, two of three students who were incomplete with their field internships have now completed them, and are taking the national registry test. The program already has interested students for the next class. Doug and Ron will meet tomorrow at College of the Redwood's Del Norte campus to discuss a distance-learning course for Del Norte. Both the Humboldt and Del Norte campuses have an LVN paramedic to RN bridge program taught by the same instructor, and Del Norte has a distance-learning environment set up in one of their classrooms. Doug believes there should also be distance-learning courses in Lake and Mendocino Counties. This will be more difficult to set up in Lake County because they are outside of CR's district. The annual accreditation report is due at the end of the month. Ambulance providers and some students have returned their evaluation form.

### **Infectious Disease Report**

Per Tim: Public Health has a new Health Officer (Dr. Terry Frankovich), who is helping lead Public Health's response to the COVID-19 threat. Public Health has extra nurses answering phones to discuss COVID-19. Public Health also has a nurse assigned to answer the public's questions about meningitis and encephalitis, in light of the Arcata High School student who contracted and died of meningitis.

### **HPP Medical Disaster Project**

Larry is interested in adopting ICEMA expanded primary and secondary standards for Image Trend. Dispatchers would query callers with those related questions and add information after they end the call. Per Louis: Image Trend is planning to add questions related to COVID-19, and has asked if NCEMS wants to be included. If NCEMS decides to be included, this would unfortunately exclude providers that are not using ICEMA's version of Image Trend. For them, other optional questions could be added. Doug and Jaison both oppose adding more fields to Image Trend.

### **Trauma Update**

Per Larry: The Trauma Advisory Committee is at 1:00pm today at St. Joseph Hospital (with a different call-in number than the one for the MAC meeting).

### **STEMI, Stroke, and EMS for Children Program Updates**

Per Larry: Selinda Shontz is helping roll out the CARES project. St. Joseph Hospital informed NCEMS that they will receive an internal grant for the LifeNet program. This grant will help facilitate better transmission of 12-leads.

Per Larry: Selinda Shontz is meeting with hospital representatives in the region to continue developing best practices related to stroke.

Per Larry: NCEMS has planned site surveys this month at five of the seven EDAP-designated hospitals (Mad River, Sutter Coast, Jerold Phelps, and both Lake County Hospitals). He, Dr. Karp, Rita, and Cheryl Raa will conduct the surveys. The EMS for Children federal grant through the UC Davis Medical Center will expire at the end of May. NCEMS will look for new funding sources because the grant supported several line items in their budget.

### **Exclusive Operating Area Update**

Per Larry: Pam Mather continues to work on internal review of the EOA contract. Once that review is completed, NCEMS will set up a meeting with Doug and Jaison to go over the contract.

### **Policy Updates**

Louis distributed policies related to the ability of pre-hospital personnel to restrain combative patients. Jaison is concerned over the terms "unwilling" vs. "unable", when referring to a patient. He does not believe ambulance personnel have the authority to restrain an unwilling 5150 patient, which the policies seem to imply. Kayce believes policies referring to restraining 5150 patients should be included as part of the inter-facility transfer policy, which NCEMS is revising, as a scene policy. Jaison supports limiting 5150 restraints to scene calls, but he still believes the policies need more revisions. Kayce and Stayce both like El Dorado County's EMS policy on transporting 5150s by using limited restraint. Tim C is concerned about EMS personnel not being able to legally restrain a 5150 on scene who is a "danger to themselves and others" without a law enforcement officer or mental health personnel present under current law. Per Kayce: Some of the other county policies she and Stayce reviewed allow restraint if a patient is acting in a way that threatens the EMS crew.

## **3. NEW BUSINESS**

### **COVID-19 Updates**

Per Tim H: In addition to what he mentioned in the Infectious Disease Report, Public Health has activated a Departmental Operations Center (DOC) in response to COVID-19. Public Health is sending out communications to medical and community partners on COVID-19 using a variety of means, including broadcast faxing. Public Health has a Communicable Disease team that is attending webinars and conference calls with the state to keep up with the latest news and guidance for COVID-19 response. Educating the public and medical partners is a primary task. Public Health does not have excess PPE to distribute to medical partners.

Redwood Memorial Hospital--Per Heather: They are asking patients to wear masks. They have their PPE and PAPRs readily available for their staff. They have certain rooms designated for patients who may have COVID-19, so the patients can be contained. They currently have no confirmed cases of COVID-19.

St. Joseph Hospital--Per Tracie: They are receiving many calls related to COVID-19, which is hindering their work. They are now sending those calls to Public Health. If a patient arrives who meets the algorithm for possibly having COVID-19, staff will don PPE and meet the patient in their car, put a mask on them, and escort them to their isolation room. St. Joseph has a symptom monitoring system for employees who are exposed to patients who have been tested for COVID-19, but have not yet gotten results. Yesterday Redwood Urgent Care sent a patient unannounced to St. Joseph that may have been exposed to COVID-19. St. Joseph will reach out to Redwood Urgent Care to address this situation. St. Joseph had one case of COVID-19 who they have since discharged, and have not had any since.

Del Norte Ambulance--Per Ron: They met with Sutter Coast Hospital to determine how to bring in a patient who may have COVID-19. They are working with Del Norte County to determine a response to a potential medical surge related to COVID-19. They met with fire departments to discuss EPA requirements on cleaning solutions and limiting exposure when responding to calls to people's homes.

City Ambulance--Per Jaison: Due to staff shortages, they have lowered their threshold for using PPE. Now their paramedics are often responding to scenes wearing PPE. They currently have sufficient PPE. They have also lowered their threshold for social distancing with patients until they can do an initial interview to screen for COVID-19. Dr. Karp supports City Ambulance's new policy on using PPE.

Humboldt Bay Fire--Per Tim C: They are trying to limit their exposure to patients when responding to their homes. They are asking the patients to step outside if they are able. They are using PPE when treating patients, but are out of gowns. While their 911 dispatch is not formally screening for COVID-19, the dispatchers are trying to recognize when a caller might be at risk for the virus. Humboldt Bay Fire is working on a contingency plan for a situation similar to the incident at a Washington State convalescent hospital, where responding fire crews were quarantined, and their engine and fire station were taken out of commission.

Mad River Hospital--Per Dr. French: They are continuously updating their guidelines based on the current CDC and state guidance. The latest guidance shows that the significant symptoms of COVID-19 present differently than seasonal flus, making it easy to distinguish. Per Sean: They are directing COVID-19 calls to Public Health. Sean hopes that if patients are told to go to Mad River, Public Health will call the hospital to inform them. Hospital staff want to meet patients in their car while wearing their PPE, put a mask on them, and then direct them to designated rooms. Mad River is concerned about HSU students leaving the area for spring break and then returning with possible infections.

DHHS-Mental Health, Semper Virens--Per Daryn: They are taking inventory of their PPE to ensure they have enough supplies. They are cleaning more often, and screening patients. They are working closely with their infection preventionists to ensure they are prepared.

CAL-ORE/REACH--Per Joe: They are reinforcing the use of PPE and decontaminating their vehicles both inside and out. They are notifying hospitals when they are transporting patients that may be infected with COVID-19.

Arcata Mad River Ambulance--Per Doug: They are coordinating their response to have the same messaging and procedures. They have a plentiful supply of N95 masks, gowns, and TYVEX suits, but are short on surgical masks. Earlier this year, the HPP grant reimbursed for eleven cases of TYVEX suits and fit testing kits, which were distributed to Arcata, City, and Hoopa Ambulance.

NCEMS--Per Larry: Dr. Karp approved a call screening procedure for EMD trained dispatchers. Per

Louis: NCEMS Disaster Liaisons have been working well with the county public health agencies in the region during the last few weeks and are available to support them on COVID-19 issues to the extent they are able. Among issues NCEMS is discussing in response to COVID-19 are alternative care sites, triaging patients in the field or at home, setting up tents outside hospitals to treat patients, finding more sources for PPE, and revising EMD screening questions.

Del Norte Ambulance--Per Ron: In a recent meeting he helped set up with Sutter Coast hospital to determine how best their agencies can help each other and improve communications during the COVID-19 event, one issue discussed was what circumstances triggers a hospital's maximum surge. Where would hospitals send patients if they have large staff shortages to the extent they cannot treat all its patients? In response, Sutter Coast is assessing their bed capacity daily. Ron is concerned that Del Norte Ambulance have an appropriate response to COVID-19 in the community without spreading panic. Ron mentioned an upcoming free webinar this Friday featuring Solano County's response to COVID-19. He offered to send members the email to sign up for the webinars.

### **2020 Calendar Approval**

Louis distributed the revised 2020 calendar. Members approved the calendar.

## **4. NCEMS REPORT**

Larry is working on the EMS plan, and Louis is working on the QIP plan, both of which are due at the end of the month. Nicole Mobley recently sent a request to providers to update their inventory sections. The next Governing Board meeting is on 04/30/20. Larry wants to discuss Image Trend issues with Ron. Larry relayed concerns Dr. Baird has about paramedics not being able to give medications such as levophed for cardiogenic shock patients, and the transfer of such patients. Members express that they were unaware of CCT transfer delays.

## **5. EMS LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Jaison mentioned several upcoming legislative bills that may be of interest, including:

- AB 1945, which would create a definition of a first responder, which will specify having to work a public agency. Jaison believes the reason for this bill is the author intends to attach it to another piece of legislation that further defines what first responders can or cannot do.
- AB 2037, which would require health care facilities to notify the public one hundred and eighty days prior to changing any services related to emergency services.
- AB 2053, which would create definitions for trauma kits and first aid kits, and would require them to contain various pediatric supplies.
- AB 2092, which would require all ambulance employees have protective gear for ballistics, including bulletproof helmets and vests.
- Currently, law requires ambulance companies to make available employee assistance sessions with a mental health clinicians. AB 2131 would require those clinicians have specific training in EMS critical stress management and PTSD. Jaison is unsure if there are any clinicians in Humboldt County with such training, thus ambulance companies will find it difficult to get their employees the help they need.
- AB 2178 would amend the act that allows the state or local governments to declare a state of emergency to add planned power outages as a reason.
- AB 2300 would amend the California Youth Football Act to require a "higher licensed medical professional" than an EMT or paramedic to determine whether a player can continue due to concussion. This may require a school to have a physician or registered nurse (depending on how "higher level" is defined) present at all youth football games. Ambulance providers in Humboldt County are not clearing youth players to continue to play or pulling them out of games who may have a concussion, because they are not able to evaluate them on scene.
- AB 2447 would amend the EMS appeals process, specifically the EMS Commission's

responsibilities and authority in the process.

- AB 2593 is another bill that would redefine "first responders".
- AB3115 would require any ambulance company that operates under an Exclusive Operating Area to report all wage changes, benefits, and employee personnel information to the LEMSA.
- AB 3202 is a "technical and non-substantive" amendment to the Emergency Services Act.
- SB909 would change the siren definition in the motor vehicle code to state that a high-low siren can and should be used to notify people of evacuations. Jaison assumes other legislation on education and training will eventually be attached to this bill.
- SB1034 would prohibit EMTs, paramedics, and law enforcement from preventing anyone taking video of patient care as long as they are in a public place and are not impeding care.
- AB1443, another "technical and non-substantive" amendment to the Emergency Services Act.

Stayce mentioned that AB1601, which would have established a Behavioral Health Response Officer in the Office of Emergency Services, died in the Assembly in January. AB1572, which would have changed the definition of "gravely disabled", also died in January.

## **6. FACILITY AND PROVIDER REPORTS**

DHHS-Mental Health—Per Stayce: The draft proposal on minors experiencing a mental health crisis being sent to the closest hospital is with County Counsel, which is making revisions. Once they complete their revisions, Stayce will bring the draft back to the MAC to review. As of 02/01/20, the 72-hour clock started at designated psychiatric facilities. Stayce sent out a training video on the 72-hour clock and H&S Code 1799.111. ER physicians are required to view the 5150 certification video and take the quiz by 04/30/20 if they want to continue to write 5150 holds. So far, sixty-seven people have viewed the video. Stayce completed the Humboldt 5150 web guide review, so now NCEMS's web guide is aligned with Mental Health's policies. Stayce has been attending the Overdose Prevention Workgroup. Waterfront Recovery's detox program is in financial jeopardy. Stayce is trying to help them find funding. Thirteen hundred non-duplicated patients have gone through the program in the last two years.

Per Paul: Dr. Tim Gannon is no longer Mental Health's medical director. They are hiring an interim medical director once all the paperwork is complete. Their Request for Proposal (RFP) for a sub-acute step down facility closes on 03/13/20. Mental Health is providing support services for a new 50-unit facility in Rio Dell for newly housed individuals with serious mental illness (SMI). A new facility is under construction on 4111 St. across from the CO-OP, which will have twenty-five beds for mental health designated individuals and twenty-five for veterans. An eighty unit single-family residential facility is also being constructed in Samoa. Paul does not have a timeline for completion for either facility, but he hopes they will be completed before the end of the year

Per Daryn: Semper Virens is having high demand for placement, as they are throughout the state. He hopes the RFP will lead to a facility that will provide relief for their placement issues.

Per Sean: Last month law enforcement brought a patient directly to Mad River, instead of going to Semper Virens first. The officers said they were directed by Semper Virens to do so. Per Daryn: When Semper Virens is at capacity, they practice patient diversion. Also, they will send a minor out because they cannot be co-housed with adults. They contact dispatchers and the hospitals to inform them (if Mental Health did not inform the hospital, this was on oversight).

Sheriff's Office--Per Tom: Since the last MAC meeting, he helped conduct County Mass Casualty Incident (CMCI) training four times. Tom thanked Patrick for assisting with the trainings. On 01/16/20 and 01/23/20 around sixty CAL-FIRE firefighters were trained, and on 01/19/20 CAL-FIRE cadets were trained. CAL-FIRE's concepts of CMCI are very similar to the County's concepts. On 02/26/20, thirty-nine Humboldt Bay Fire staff were trained as well as some personnel from City Ambulance and Arcata Mad River Ambulance. Tim Citro assisted in that training. Three trainings are pending (depending on

the situation with COVID-19). On 04/09/20, he is planning an exercise at a faith center to mimic last year's Pittsburg synagogue shooting. The other trainings are on 04/19/20 in Southern Humboldt, and 04/24/20 at the Northcoast Paramedic Program. Tom wants observers to help at these exercises. Tom is still attempting to get a count for the total number of fire engines for Humboldt, Del Norte, and Lake Counties for Larry so he can move forward with grant funding for triage ribbons.

Redwood Memorial Hospital—Per Heather: Nothing additional to report.

St. Joseph Hospital--Per Tracie: They have a new interim director for their emergency department, Dr. Phillip Maddox. Dr. Veronica Bonales is leaving on 03/18/20.

Del Norte Ambulance—Per Ron: They are holding an ACLS class on 04/5/20, which will include an online portion beforehand. They are offering a train-the-trainer program to include such topics as CPR, ACLS, and Pediatric Advanced Live Support (PALS). Del Norte Ambulance has a new medical director.

DHHS-Public Health—Per Tim H: Sofia Pereira, formally an analyst and HPP Coordinator for Public Health's Emergency Preparedness program, is now the new Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the program. Her now vacant analyst position is going through the county process to be filled.

City Ambulance--Per Jaison: They will put Zoll X-Series monitors in service by Monday, and will phase out the use of their LifePak monitors in Fortuna. They are scheduled to receive nine power gurneys on 03/13/20, and will place them in their primary 911 units, but potentially keep one at St. Joseph Hospital. The CHP is scheduled to inspect their CCT unit in Fortuna in a few days. The unit will not be completely CCT capable, but City Ambulance will get the necessary equipment to make it capable. At the direction of the DEA, they removed the controlled substances deployment center at Redwood Memorial Hospital. City Ambulance now has a different stocking procedure in Fortuna. Sometimes all of their ALS ambulances in Eureka are responding to calls, and even though they have BLS units available in Eureka, those units cannot respond, and City Ambulance must call for another ALS unit from Fortuna or Arcata. In an effort to address this problem, they are taking several steps. First, they are performing EMD screening on calls to better ensure ALS units are not being sent to a call unnecessarily. Secondly, they need to train their EMTs to be able to transport BLS patients to a hospital with no paramedic. Jaison anticipates starting this new procedure within the next sixty to ninety days. He wants to set up a meeting with Tim C, Doug, and Sean to discuss his plans further. He believes that if City Ambulance implements this new policy, it will reduce the number of times an EMT crew is dispatched to an ALS call along with Humboldt Bay Fire. Kristen Moses is setting up the training for the EMTs. Per Louis: NCEMS will need to review literature that supports this type of response. A discussion ensued on the NCEMS matrix not including Bravo calls. Jaison believes this is a gap that should be addressed. Kristen Moses has promoted to Ambulance Supervisor, and Jessie Ostrosky is promoted to Fleet Maintenance Coordination.

Humboldt Bay Fire--Per Tim C: They have six new graduates. Two are state licensed paramedics, who will start accreditation within next few months, and one new accredited paramedic.

CAL-ORE/REACH--Per Joe: They have new BodyGuard brand pumps for their ambulances, which will be put in service once all their crews have been trained. Nine EMTs completed the advanced EMT program, and are starting the intermediate program for Oregon.

Mad River Hospital—Per Sean: Nothing additional to report.

Arcata-Mad River Ambulance--Per Doug: Nothing additional to report.

**7. Next Meeting: April 8, 2020, 9am at St. Joseph Hospital, Burre room in Old General Hospital building (followed by a meeting with the Trauma Advisory Committee)--Canceled**