

MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the November 18, 2015 meeting held at Redwood Memorial Hospital.

Present:

Doug Boileau, EMT-P	Arcata-Mad River Ambulance
Jaison Chand, EMT-P	City Ambulance
Kayce Hurd, EMT-P	City Ambulance
Ron Sandler, EMT-P	Del Norte Ambulance
Donald Baird, MD	DHHS--Public Health, Humboldt
Angel LaRue, RN	Jerold Phelps Hospital
Steve Engle	Mad River Community Hospital
Louis Bruhnke, EMT-P	North Coast EMS
Larry Karsteadt	North Coast EMS
Jennifer Fulkerson, RN	Redwood Memorial Hospital
Aaron Blue, MD	St. Joseph Hospital
Lisa Neuger, MD	St. Joseph Hospital
David Southerland	St. Joseph Hospital/ Redwood Memorial Hospital
Sean Wilson	Cal-Fire
Debbie Pardee, RN	CalStar
Jessie Bugbee, RN	Redwood Memorial Hospital
Joe Gregorio, EMT	Cal-Ore Life Flight
Ken Stiver, MD	North Coast EMS

By Phone:

Lisa Neuger, MD	St. Joseph Hospital
Charles Tweed, EMT-P	Del Norte Ambulance

1. INTRODUCTIONS/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the October 14, 2015 were approved with the following additions (in bold). Under New Business, Pratt Antenna and Rogers Peak Repeater Repair Plan. "...responsibility for maintaining and replacing the equipment was transferred to ambulance companies and hospitals **and the counties** in the region." "NCEMS has an established trust fund to help with maintenance **of the mountain top repeater**, but the fund is limited.

3. OLD BUSINESS

North Coast Paramedic Program

Per Doug: Ten students have completed the program. The accreditation self-study is due April 1st. The annual report is due next month which includes the results of surveys submitted by 2014 graduates of the program and their employers. City Ambulance, Arcata-Mad River Ambulance, Cal-Ore Life Flight and Humboldt Bay Fire Department should look forward to receiving an email with a link to a survey instrument. It is important to complete the survey in order to give your input and so the program achieves the minimum threshold return level required by the accrediting body.

MCI Channel and MCI Plan Updates

The last MCI Channel test achieved 100% participation from ambulances and hospitals.

Image Trend and HIE Program Update

NCEMS posted a link on their website to the HIE grant discovery. NCEMS is working with providers in Lake County and Will Ross of Redwood MedNet in Ukiah on submitting a grant request to the EMSA for funding to explore linking prehospital and hospital electronic patient data.

Infectious Disease Update – see facility report

STEMI Program Update

A site visit report was prepared and submitted to St. Joseph containing a few suggestions. Selinda is working on patient destination policy changes based on the designation of a STEMI receiving facility. An article was distributed to the committee titled, *The Utility of Prehospital ECG Transmission in a Large EMS System*. The study determined that there was no effect on the time to reperfusion with EMS transmission of EKG's. One small benefit was the lack of false activations. It is unknown if the results would be different in this area. City Ambulance reported that they have had two patients that met STEMI criteria, one was too close to the hospital to warrant transmission. The other was farther away and the transmission was deemed useful. A discussion followed. Del Norte Ambulance doesn't bother with a 12-lead EKG if the transport time is under ten minutes. City Ambulance doesn't want to see transport delays in order to do a 12-lead. Jason thinks that a meeting should be held to discuss expectations and develop policy. St. Joseph ED likes receiving the 12-lead from EMS when the patient comes in the door. Larry offered to query other LEMSA's to determine 12-lead policy with short transport times. Ken pointed out that we would be far more successful in saving hearts if more time was spent on public education promoting seeking help at the earliest onset of symptoms.

Redwood Memorial inquired about the best way to get an ambulance for a STEMI transfer as going through the transfer center may cause delays. Jason indicated that they will respond immediately regardless of how the calls come in to them so feel free to call direct.

Exclusive Operating Area/Transportation Plan – Humboldt County

The transportation plan containing EOA's for both emergency and inter-facility transfers was submitted to the EMS Authority. The EMSA has 90 days to either approve or not approve the plan. The EMSA has requested supporting documents verifying qualifications for meeting the grandfathering provisions.

Patient Destination and IFT Policy Updates

Del Norte Ambulance submitted comments. The policy will go in the next informational mailing. Language was added concerning notifying the receiving facility earlier when not transporting to the base hospital.

Potential Stroke System Options

The State is narrowing the model for stroke center designation which will likely take some time. In the meantime, NCEMS can make policy changes and encourage the use of telemedicine with stroke centers. In Lake County they may expand the catchment area for stroke as they have for STEMI. A discussion followed with public education being identified again as the most important way to reduce morbidity and mortality secondary to stroke. The patients need to get to the ED within 3 hours of onset of symptoms to even consider thrombolysis. There have been 3 recent studies demonstrating the efficacy of clot removal utilizing a procedure similar to that used in a cath. lab. Several people offered to jump start some public education messages.

3. NEW BUSINESS

MedNet Communications System Update

A meeting was held last week to discuss a plan for insuring that the mednet mountaintop repeater system is maintained in working condition. The meeting was called by Bill Linn of the Public Health branch because the Hospital Preparedness Program grant has about \$7,000 that could be allocated to the mednet system. The meeting was attended by Jaison and Kayce from City Ambulance, Doug from Arcata-Mad River Ambulance, Wayne Shaw from RWS services, and Bill Linn and Charlene Pellatz from public health. The group agreed that the priority should be to repair the Roger's Mountain repeater because it has been down for months, and then to use remaining funds to assess the status of the other repeaters, tune the existing equipment, and develop a preventative maintenance schedule. Wayne submitted a bid for this work later the same day. Further discussion mentioned the need to establish a fund for ongoing maintenance and replacement funded by ambulance providers and hospitals. It was suggested that this fund could be administered by NCEMS since they already maintain a fund for repeater maintenance and have a mechanism for assessing providers and hospitals. Larry confirmed that they have \$7,000 to \$8,000 in the fund. He also mentioned that the counties accepted responsibility for repeater maintenance when the repeaters were transferred to them, but they have not allocated any money for that purpose.

Medical Scene Safety – Law Enforcement Response

Doug brought the concern regarding delayed law enforcement response to medical aid calls, where fire and EMS crews are staging, to the Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC) last month. The law enforcement chief's representative to the EMCC is Billy Honsel, the undersheriff. He agreed that law enforcement should treat requests for law enforcement to respond to scenes where fire and ambulance crews are staged due to safety concerns as emergency responses. He will review the sheriff department's policies, amend them as necessary, and brief his watch commanders and dispatch supervisor.

The decision of when EMS and fire units should be required to stage was also discussed. Jaison reported that in areas dispatched by Eureka Public Safety crews are directed to stage on overdose calls only if the patient is showing aggression. He believes that this should be the standard on calls coming through Cal Fire as well and has spoken to the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association about it. Cal Fire will change their policy if there is agreement.

4. NCEMS Report

Prior to the EMS report, Doug congratulated Larry on being chosen as the California EMS Administrator of the Year. The award will be presented by the EMS Authority at the Commission meeting in December. A flyer for a reception in Larry's honor to be held at the Humboldt Bay Fire Training Facility on Wednesday December 9 from 2 to 4 PM was distributed.

The JPA meeting is coming up. The EDAP site visit was conducted at Redwood Memorial by Cheryl Raa. The site visit showed that they are taking good care of children and their designation as an EDAP will be renewed. The site visit follow up report is being prepared. THE EMSAAC conference will take place May 10 and 11 in San Diego.

Larry distributed copies of *A comparison of rural versus urban trauma care* published in the Journal of Emergencies, Trauma, and Shock. The study was conducted 20 years ago in this region comparing trauma patient outcomes here with those that came into Harbor UCLA Medical Center. At that time we had trauma teams active in all our local hospitals. The study found no statistical difference in survival or neurological outcome between the two areas, demonstrating that an organized system of trauma care

works in rural areas. Discussion followed concerning the current status of trauma care in the area and the wider implications to care in general. Lisa reported that there is 24/7 trauma surgery available at St. Joseph and they are building their trauma program. There has been a paradigm shift away from general surgeons with their own practices to surgicalists. St. Joseph is recruiting orthopedic trauma surgeons and is also looking to recruit 25 physicians for various other specialties and 10 to 15 primary care physicians. The medical society has reported that the number of physicians in Humboldt and Del Norte counties is at its lowest level in 30 years. There is currently a shortage of 50 physicians. The whole community has to be involved in addressing the problem.

NCEMS is putting together a conference to be held on March 3 in Lake County and March 4 in Eureka that will focus on situational awareness in a countywide disaster event.

The policy review committee met yesterday for the first time. The conference call set up with Lake County did not work so Lake County members were unable to participate. The committee will initially focus on setting a structure for periodic review of all policies and developing a method for determining which policies to focus on first. Del Norte Ambulance would appreciate it if meetings were scheduled on the same day as other meetings to reduce travel days.

5. EMS Commission Report

The California Fire Chiefs' association is suing the EMSA which will probably further aggravate work on the Chapter 13 taskforce working on exclusive operating area regulations.

6. Facility Reports

Cal Fire – The seasonal draw down of resources has occurred. There was a series of fires along the 101 corridor likely the result of a vehicle dragging a chain or some other object sparking.

Public Health – There have been 2 flu related deaths in California, one patient over 65 and one infant. Dr. Baird recommends that everyone get their flu immunization. Discussions are ongoing with mental health. Work on chronic pain management is progressing through the IPA with Karen Ayers doing a good job to facilitate change. This county is on track for a record year of drug overdose deaths. Most involve opiates or benzodiazepines. A grant was received that will allow for the purchase of 200 naloxone auto injectors.

Cal Ore Lifeflight – Summit Air has been acquired by their network. They are based in Reno and can be here in an hour with an aircraft equipped with an electric ramp loading system and a 4 foot wide door that is capable of transporting a 650 pound patient.

St. Joseph – the ongoing operational reviews with City Ambulance are going well.

Mad River – Mad River has 24/7 trauma surgery coverage with 3 general surgeons sharing call. They have been handling a very high volume of orthopedic trauma cases. One surgeon has done 200 procedures in the first 9 months of the year. They have been receiving patients from other hospitals for orthopedic trauma. They have recently recruited 3 primary care physicians.

Jerold Phelps – There will be a field care audit focused on endotracheal intubation on 11/24.

Del Norte Ambulance – They attended the American Ambulance Association convention and heard a number of excellent speakers. He recommended checking out 2Dog MD on You Tube. The volunteer base in rural America is shrinking and there is a crisis in hiring for EMS nationwide. Problems with community paramedicine programs were also discussed. Medicare may be requiring prior authorization

on some transports soon. DNA is looking at acquiring Lucas devices for outlying fire departments to provide mechanical CPR. Sutter Coast has a new PCMD.

City Ambulance – they are looking at the Advanced EMT program as a possible solution to maintaining limited ALS capabilities at some of the fire departments in their area. They have 3 ALS first responders in their area but they can't maintain staffing. The AEMT regulations were passed 2 years ago and include the medications and procedures needed in the first few minutes of patient contact. The training is much shorter than that required for a paramedic and easier to maintain. Other area fire departments may be interested. Jaison will be making a presentation to the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' to gage support. North Coast EMS would have to adopt the new regulations. Existing NCEMS protocols have already been modified to reflect the elimination of EMT-IIs and the possibility of AEMT's.

7. Next Meeting: Wednesday 12/09/15 at Mad River Community Hospital, 9:00 a.m.