



# **Sonoma County**

## **Emergency Medical Care Council**

Dean Anderson, Chairperson

### **January 28, 2008 Meeting Minutes**

#### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

Dean Anderson opened the meeting at 12:35. Introductions were made around the room.

#### **2. Minutes approved**

- a. Minutes from the October 22, 2007 were approved as submitted.

#### **3. Regional EMS Agency Report**

- a. **Staffing** – *A new position of EMS Coordinator just interviewed last week with a decision forthcoming.*
- b. **Disaster Planning** – Steve spoke of the upcoming CHEMPAK training to be held on 2/14/08 in Petaluma.
- c. **EMSystem Update** – Steve spoke on the status. Our resources are now fully entered into the system and training is scheduled on 2/28 and 2/29 for the tri-county region. Questions were raised whether Cal-Fire will be online with this system in the future. CVEMS intends to have Cal-Fire participate in the system.

#### **4. MAC Sub Committee Reports**

- a. **TAC** – Joanne Chapman reported the group had a large turnout for this meeting and that the meeting was focused on specific case management.
- b. **CQI** – Jeff Howard reported he is working on a restructure to revitalizing this committee.
- c. **LUS** -- James Salvante reported on the new Lesser Used Skills (now called "ALS Update") class held in January at the SRJC Training Center. The class consists of various lectures, skill stations, and testing review for all class participants. These classes will be held monthly. James continues to recruit assistance from providers at the skills stations for upcoming classes throughout the year. Discussion ensued regarding rotating lecture topics, and perhaps adding case presentations/review. Eric Freed raised concerns regarding EMT's taking refresher classes, not being familiar with Coastal Valleys BLS protocols and how to implement BLS protocol education.
- d. **MCI & Aircraft** – Kent Coxon was not present to speak on these topics, however Steve Francis noted that both these committees are being reviewed to be held on days outside of the MAC meeting date. Steve will be leading the Aircraft committee, and Kent will now chair the MCI group.

- e. **Trauma** -- Joanne Chapman is creating an email lists of all ED physicians and trauma surgeons in the region for communication networking. She noted that Santa Rosa Memorial is updating the "Guidelines for Rapid Assessment and Trauma Transfers of a Major Trauma Patient" document to include subdural and epidural hematomas.

She then gave an update from her attendance at the last Lake County TAC meeting in December. Lake County is in the process of adopting CVEMSA Trauma Triage Policy. The adoption of our policy will decrease over triage to SRMH, increase the number of patients transported to Sutter Lakeside, and clarify the roles between ground and air providers on the scene.

Sutter Lakeside has also requested Federal designation as a Critical Access Facility, to increase their reimbursement rates but will limit bed capacity to 25 inpatient beds. A similar designation exists at Redbud Hospital. Lake County has significant transportation issues for inter-facility transports. With resources already limited, it is stressful on the system to send out ALS transfers by ground. Many questions still remain with challenges to staffing issues at facilities.

## 5. Old Business

- a. **Ambulance Franchise Planning** – Dean Anderson spoke of the new consultant – Abaris Group – chosen to evaluate the process that has occurred to date and report back to the lead team of DHS Administration and Public Health Officer. Franchise Planning meetings are scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon on February 21<sup>st</sup> and March 20<sup>th</sup>, held at the DHS Conference Center @ 475 Aviation Blvd., Santa Rosa. Any particular questions on the process timeline or RFP may be directed to Rita Scardaci, DHS Director or Dr. Mary Maddux, PH Officer.
- b. **Proposed Sutter Closure** -- Nothing new to report. Meetings continue to be held and EMS has not been given any notice of the 90-day closure period. The contractor has finished the scope of work and presented the report to DHS Administrators.

## 6. New Business

General discussion ensued regarding new construction being completed at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital, allowing for 80 additional inpatient beds on the "Two Center East" wing. A heart/vascular institute and cath lab is nearing completion.

Dr. McCalla mentioned that possible construction of a new Urgent Care Center across the street from the hospital is being considered. Parking issues are being addressed with new signage and available parking in the garage structures.

Point-of-Entry discussion regarding Healdsburg Hospital considering re-opening their ICU was addressed. Kaiser has an Urgent Care after hours clinic from 5:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. for emergent care presentation patients.

Extensive discussion regarding nursing ratios and treatment of patients in hallway beds ensued. Dr. Seydel, as EMCC Hospital Rep, announced that he would take the lead to develop a position statement requesting that State DHS encourage hospitals to expedite emission processes resulting in availability of inpatient beds, as well as receive DHS support to hold patients in hallway beds in times of admitting impacts.

EMCC Committee Membership List -- Dean Anderson addressed the vacancies on the committee and asked that we work on updating through the procedures outlined in the EMCC by-laws. Steve Francis will follow-up on this action.

## **7. Announcements**

- a. Bill Shubin asked that the past System Status Providers' Committee, along with the Compliance Committee be reinstated. Kent Coxon will be consulted on this request.
- b. Bill Shubin announced an upcoming DEA narcotics meeting to discuss safety monitoring for EMS field providers. The meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on February 12, 2008 at 4328 Watt Avenue, Sacramento. The contact for registration and information is: Gordon Taylor @ (916) 480-7239.
- c. Announcement that Coast Life Support District's request for a trial study on the Administration of Fibrinolytic Therapy in the Rural Setting was approved by the State EMS Authority on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008. This culminates a lengthy approval process which began in June 2004. A report to be reviewed by the Commission on EMS will be due to the EMS Authority 18 months from the start up date of the study. Any questions can be directed to Nancy Steiner at State EMSA.

## **8. Meeting adjourned @ 2:00 p.m.**

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, April 28th, 2008, 12:30 to 2:00 p.m., **(noon lunch)**,  
CVEMSA, 475 Aviation Blvd., **GUILD HALL** (upstairs, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)