



Sonoma County
Emergency Medical Care Council

Dean Anderson, Chairperson

EMCC Minutes July 27, 2009

Present: Dean Anderson, Ellie Lowry, Henry Fuhs, John Managlia, Bob Norrbom, Malissa Opulencia, James Salvante, Fred Seydel, Bill Shubin, Joshua Weil, Tucker Bierbaum, Joanne Chapman, Bryan Cleaver, Kent Coxon, Dan Epperson, Linda Anderson, Eric Freed, Dick Luttrell, Don Campbell, John Zanzi, Scott Dunn, Deborah Pardee, Alan Ross

1. Welcome and Introductions

Dean Anderson opened the meeting at 12:30. Introductions were made around the room.

2. Minutes approved

Minutes from the April 27, 2009 meeting were approved as presented.

3. Public Comment Period

-Bob Norrbom raised an issue of concern regarding recent increased numbers of move ups provided by Sonoma Fire to franchise. Dean suggests bringing this matter to the attention of the contract compliance group

-Josh Weil is working on a letter to be submitted to the editor of the Press Democrat regarding the impact of the Sutter proposal to emergency care focusing on that aspect-mainly the fact that the County Auditors are predicting that the new Sutter as planned will be at 175% capacity but that other hospitals can meet that demand by taking on the overflow which means transferring patients to other hospitals which will then add more hours on length on their stay in the emergency department and less capacity of the ER and more rigs needed to move those patients around. This letter has been endorsed by emergency chiefs including Healdsburg Hospital, Palm Drive, Memorial, Sonoma Valley, and Kaiser. Bryan Cleaver noted that the board did accept the department's report and EMS will schedule a stakeholders meeting related to this in approximately 8-12 weeks from now, and suggests everyone read a copy of the Department of Health Services report to the Board of Supervisors that is available on our website. There will be a presentation given by Dr. Mary Maddux at the next EMCC meeting regarding this issue.

4. EMS Agency Report

• **Contract Compliance**

Kent Coxon reported wrapping up the review of June 2009 capturing all data up to that point and within approximately another week and at that point will schedule a meeting with contract compliance to go over all reports and numbers and look further into the concerns Bob Norrbom discussed, date for this next meeting is to be determined.

• **Disaster Planning/Exercises**

Kent Coxon gave details on a recent exercise at the airport that involved AMR and Bells that concentrated for fire on training how to respond at the airport dealing with entering aircraft and evacuating and extricating people from aircraft that went very well. The state did a statewide exercise that focused primarily on communication between hospitals and public health shortly after the H1N1 aftermath. Kent has been working with the company that produces our triage tags that are used in the field and through working with a hospital evacuation planning group developed new triage tags that work better in a hospital setting for evacuations, training will come next and an exercise is being planned for next fall to practice hospital evacuations with an emphasis on communication between first responders and the hospital itself.

Sonoma County EMCC

C/O CVEMSA

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- **MAC Committees**
 - a. **TAC-** Joanne Chapman explained that the trauma bypass policy has been revised mainly just to reflect the use of Emsystems versus Redinett and that will go out for public comment this week it had already been through internal comment. Also the report from Memorial Hospital was received regarding their ACS visit, they passed with no deficiencies the report and executive summary is available to review by contacting Joanne. TAC continues to work with UVMC to get them designated as a level four trauma center.
 - b. **MCI-** Kent Coxon spoke about the last MAC meeting discussion on the patient distribution forms that have been created and has been working on getting those out and is working on getting the training for hospitals and field personnel developed in order to get the forms implemented.
 - c. **Aircraft-** James Salvante has taken over the role Steve Francis once held as aircraft committee representative, as Steve no longer works at the EMS agency. The previous meeting was cancelled as the changing of hands created a conflict of meeting schedules, the next meeting will be held before the next MAC meeting scheduled October 7th.
 - d. **QI-** James Salvante reported on the new consultant from Fitch and Associates, David Williams, who tomorrow will begin a series of meetings in Napa and Mendocino, and Wednesday we be here in Sonoma to meet with stakeholder groups to gather information about the current state of QI individual organizations and the region as a whole, after which he will draft a survey and send it out to gather additional information to examine the system. Next QI meeting will be August 18th from 1:00-3:00.

5. Old Business

- **Legislation-**Bryan Cleaver stated that the EMT and EMT advanced public comment draft has been posted and a link is available on the Coastal Valleys website that links to the EMS Authority website that shows the results of the EMT 2010 project that will implement new background checks.
-Dean Anderson mentioned circulating a notice last week to ambulance providers a call to action at the federal level regarding Medicare funding. There is pending Medicare full implementation for next year which is yet another significant cut in EMS reimbursement for ambulance transport. There are opportunities in legislation to continue funding or improve the reimbursement levels that need support.
- 1. **Hospital Boarding Letter** – Dean Anderson spoke about the group undertaking the effort to communicate to the regulatory agencies for the hospitals the desire for them to allow for facilities to board patients in the hallways of the floor rather than in the hallways of the ER to open up flow through the ER. A letter has been drafted and sent to the appropriate state agencies in the State Department of Public Health that handle the facilities in Sonoma County. A copy of that letter is available for review by contacting Dean or the EMS Agency.
- 2. **Potential Fee Changes** –Bryan Cleaver gave an update on fee changes, Bryan anticipates going to the board of all three counties in April of 2010 for approval of proposed fee increases.
- 3. **Membership New Business-** Kent Coxon reports that the fire chiefs responded indicating that John Zanzi and Bill Shubin will continue on as Fire/1st Responder (SCFC) Representatives. There has been no response yet from Sonoma County Law Chiefs. Kent will check to see if letters have been sent to Sonoma County Hospitals and The Sonoma County Paramedic Association regarding their representatives.



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6. New Business

EMS Agency Staffing-Bryan Cleaver informed the committee of the agency losing three positions recently due to County budget cuts; one being a vacant position, also Sam Barnett, the Mendocino County Coordinator, and Steve Francis. Our consultant Jack Becker is working as a consultant and working on an organizational analysis of the agency looking into single county versus multi county plan, and we are expecting a report soon giving his expert opinion as to which model will work best.

7. Announcements and Items from the Membership

Linda Anderson brought up some budgetary issues the college is facing such as possible per unit fees and section cuts. The college is working to preserve vocational programs and will likely spare the public safety training programs somewhat. Linda also mentions the upcoming paramedic graduation that will be held August 7th at 10:00am.

8. Meeting Adjourned at 1:30 pm

Next EMCC Meeting will be held Monday October 26, 2009 at 12:30 pm