

**Mountain-Valley
Emergency Medical Services Agency
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2021**

Location: Via Zoom
Time: 10:00 AM
Board Members Present: Gary Tofanelli (Chairperson) – Calaveras County; Terry Woodrow – Alpine County; Miles Menetrey – Mariposa County; Buck Condit – Stanislaus County

Board Member Absent: Jeff Brown (Vice-Chairperson) – Amador County

Guests: Derek Cole – Agency Counsel; Chief Mike Johnson – Ebbetts Pass Fire District; Josh Brace – Modesto Fire Department; Jesse Figueroa – Mercy Medical Transport; Alan McNany – American Legion Ambulance; Michael Courtney – Westside Ambulance; Kelly Covello – Stanislaus County CEO Office; Chris Parnell – Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services; Mary Ann Lilly – Stanislaus County Health Services Agency; Dr. Eric Sergienko – Mariposa County Health Officer; Paul Willette – Patterson District Ambulance

Staff: Cindy Murdaugh – Executive Director; Susan Watson – Executive Secretary / Financial Services Assistant; Tom Morton – Communications and Data Systems Coordinator; Justin Murdock – EMS Critical Care Coordinator; Amy Diaz – Front Office and Certifications; Brenda Freese – Certifications, Training and Data Registrar; Marilyn Smith – Response and Transport Coordinator; Jim Whitworth – Quality Improvement/Trauma Coordinator

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairperson Tofanelli with a quorum of four members present.

B. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Watson conducted a roll call of the JPA Board members. Chairperson Tofanelli called for self-introductions by staff and guests.

C. Correspondence

None.

D. Additions/Deletions, Corrections to Agenda

M/S/C (Woodrow/Condit) To approve the agenda as written.

Motion Passed 4-0-1

E. Public Forum

None.

F. Approval of Consent Calendar

M/S/C (Menetrey/Condit) To approve the consent calendar.

Motion Passed 4-0-1

G. Amendment to Agreement with Sutter Valley Hospitals dba Memorial Medical Center

Ms. Murdaugh presented the amendment to the current agreement with Sutter Valley Hospitals dba Memorial Medical Center for Designation as a Stroke Receiving Center. The amendment replaces the Section 6 Hospital Responsibilities, subsection o. with standardized contractual language used by Sutter Valley Hospitals related to the provision of data for use by the Agency. There are no other changes to the agreement. The Board was asked to approve the amendment and authorize the Executive Director to sign the document.

Supervisor Woodrow requested the term of the current agreement which is from January 1, 2021 thru December 31, 2023.

Supervisor Condit asked if this change gives the Agency enough data to use. Ms. Murdaugh confirmed there would not be any change to what is currently provided.

M/S/C (Condit/Woodrow) To approve the amendment to the agreement with Sutter Valley Hospitals dba Memorial Medical Center for Designation as a Stroke Receiving Center.
Motion Passed 4-0-1

H. Agreement with AmWest Ambulance

Ms. Murdaugh presented the renewal agreement with AmWest Ambulance to provide non-emergency ground ambulance service for inter-facility transfers and in and out of Stanislaus County. After a successful first year of performance, the renewal agreement has a term of three years from November 1, 2021 thru October 31, 2024. The Board was asked to approve the agreement and authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract.

Supervisor Condit asked if the provider is in good standing, which Ms. Murdaugh affirmed.

Supervisor Menetrey commented there are agreements with MVEMSA that will run well past the date Stanislaus County creates its own agency. Ms. Murdaugh stated discussion regarding the contracts has started with Richard Murdock, County Counsel, Agency Counsel, herself and Susan Watson from the Agency. Ms. Watson is presently putting together a packet of contracts for both Counsels to review.

M/S/C (Condit/Woodrow) To approve the agreement with AmWest Ambulance.
Motion Passed 4-0-1

I. Agreement with Bay Medic Transportation, Inc.

Ms. Murdaugh presented the renewal agreement with Bay Medic Transportation, Inc. to provide non-emergency ground ambulance service for inter-facility transfers and in and out of Stanislaus County. The provider is in good standing and provides BLS, ALS, and CCT transport services. e, The renewal agreement has a term of three years from November 1, 2021 thru October 31, 2024. The Board was asked to approve the agreement and authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract.

M/S/C (Condit/Menetrey) To approve the agreement with Bay Medic Transportation, Inc..
Motion Passed 4-0-1

J. Agreement with Reldon R. Jones

Ms. Murdaugh presented the agreement with Reldon R. (Rick) Jones to perform transition consulting services to the Agency including a comprehensive inventory of equipment, software, records and intellectual property. The term of the agreement began on October 1, 2021 and will continue thru December 31, 2022. A conference call was held between Derek Cole, Rick Jones, Susan Watson and Ms. Murdaugh to discuss the process. Mr. Jones and Ms. Watson are coordinating for scheduled sessions in the Agency office. The Board was asked to approve the agreement.

M/S/C (Woodrow/Menetrey) To approve the agreement with Reldon R. Jones.

Motion Passed 4-0-1

K. FY 20/21 Preliminary Year-End Financial Reports

Ms. Watson discussed the FY 20/21 preliminary year-end financial reports noting a 6.1% net loss. The loss was primarily due to the costs associated with change in Executive Directors, merit increases for some of the employees, and a significant increase in both the general liability and professional liability insurance premiums.

Ms. Watson further reported the annual financial audit of the FY 20/21 records is underway with Stroub, Thompson and Noble and reminded the Board this audit is the last in the current 5 year engagement with this accounting firm. The audit is a requirement of the agreement with the State EMS Authority for the use of State General Funds.

M/S/C (Menetrey/Woodrow) To approve the FY 20/21 Preliminary Year-End Financial Reports.

Motion Passed 4-0-1

L. FirstWatch and FirstPass Presentation

Mr. Morton gave a comprehensive presentation on how FirstWatch and FirstPass data surveillance systems are used by the Agency. He reviewed the criteria for selecting FirstWatch Solutions, Inc. as the vendor and reviewed the core system features. He discussed the various data sources among the member counties and demonstrated the connections to contractual response time compliance as well as to clinical oversight and quality improvement initiatives.

Supervisor Menetrey commented it was a great presentation and he appreciated seeing how it all works.

Supervisor Tofanelli requested a copy of the PowerPoint presentation be provided to the Board members. He further asked for a breakdown of the type of fees to have and maintain the software. Mr. Morton explained the system license fees versus the annual support and maintenance fees.

Chief Johnson asked if FirstWatch will be included in the Agency's transition after July 2022? Supervisor Tofanelli said it was the intention to keep it, but noted finances are a challenge.

Supervisor Tofanelli asked if extra equipment is required to use FirstWatch. Mr. Morton explained it is a web-based software that can be accessed from anywhere with a login.

Supervisor Tofanelli asked if the providers can see their own response times before the public reports are brought to the Board? Mr. Morton affirmed the providers can see their own data at anytime. Ms. Murdaugh further noted the public response compliance reports are posted on the Agency website.

Supervisors Woodrow and Condit thanked Mr. Morton for the very informative presentation.

Supervisor Menetrey asked who pays for FirstWatch? Mr. Morton and Ms. Murdaugh responded it has been a combination of Agency operating funds; fees assessed in contractual agreements; Stanislaus County System Enhancement funds; and HPP Grant funds.

Supervisor Tofanelli noted the PowerPoint presentation could be posted to the website for the public to see it for reference.

M. Planning Discussion

Supervisor Tofanelli reported he and Supervisor Woodrow met with the Agency employees and shared the limited information available at the time. He noted his concern and felt the Board should be concerned with not knowing enough of what is going to happen with what Stanislaus is going to do. Derek Cole informed Supervisors Tofanelli and Woodrow yesterday that Stanislaus County is working toward offering the Agency employees employment at Stanislaus County but will not have those offers out to the employees until sometime in late January or early February. The employees are presently MVEMSA employees and they have the opportunity to evaluate an offer from somewhere else and determine whether or not they are going to accept it. At this time neither the Board nor the employees know what an offer from Stanislaus County will contain, so it cuts into the time the Board has to recruit for Agency positions moving forward.

The Board met with Rick Jones and he affirmed he has started working on the inventory. More information is expected by the November 4th JPA Board meeting.

Mary Ann Lilly clarified that Stanislaus County adheres to the merit system of recruitment and are currently working through a process that will require Board of Supervisors action to establish positions. In some cases, current job classifications already exist, but there are some new job classifications that have to be created as they don't currently exist in the County structure. The County will go through the process of posting positions and adhering to the public recruitment process. The County does not want Agency employees to feel anxious about what is going forward and does not assume the Agency employees would be Stanislaus County employees either, as between all the counties, these functions are going to be needed. As best we can the County does not want the staff to feel uncertain although there is time and effort to take place to know how this will all come out. The County is willing to meet with Agency staff to help them better understand the Stanislaus County process moving forward.

Supervisor Tofanelli acknowledged Mrs. Lilly's clarification and expressed his understanding of the process and coordination required to establish new job classifications. He recommended coordination between Mrs. Lilly and Ms. Murdaugh to set up a time to meet with the Agency employees.

Supervisor Menetrey asked Dr. Sergienko to share the coordination efforts underway with Tuolumne County.

Dr. Sergienko reported he had been working with staff within Tuolumne County, a former member of the JPA but withdrew three or so decades ago. While they value the operations they have now, they also recognize the advantage to being in a JPA. The Deputy CAO, The Deputy Director of the Health and Human Services Agency and their staff are doing their due diligence looking into the advantages of rejoining the JPA. Dr. Sergienko asked the JPA Board Chair or another JPA Board member reach out to the Chair of the Tuolumne Board of Supervisors and make that known there is interest from the current JPA to see if Tuolumne would be interested in rejoining the counties along the 40 corridor. Dr. Sergienko sees the advantage of the foothill and alpine counties joined in a

similar set of protocols, to give them increased quality improvement, and the use of FirstWatch/FirstPass already in use in MVEMSA.

Supervisor Tofanelli said he and Supervisor Woodrow would reach out to the Tuolumne Board Chair between now and the next JPA Board meeting.

Supervisor Tofanelli said he will try to put together a preliminary budget going forward after June 30th and plans to present it at the November 4th JPA Board meeting and noted some discussions with Ms. Murdaugh and Ms. Watson would be needed over the next couple of weeks. Anything presented at the next meeting will only be preliminary and not the final budget.

Supervisor Woodrow affirmed the Board recognizes the employees are all very valuable is trying to do the best for them and for the Agency.

N. Closed Session

The Board entered into closed session at 11:25 AM.

O. Results of Closed Session

Open session resumed at 11:54 AM. Derek Cole reported the Board of Directors met in closed session regarding one potential litigation matter. An updated was received and direction given to legal counsel. No further reportable action was taken.

P. Agency and County Reports

Stanislaus County: No further report. Supervisor Condit thanked Ms. Murdaugh for her time spent on a recent Zoom meeting with ambulance providers on the west side, Supervisor Chance Condit and Supervisor Buck Condit regarding the work being done on the two-tier system.

Calaveras County: Supervisor Tofanelli thanked Ms. Murdaugh and all of the employees at MVEMSA for the very good meeting with Supervisors Tofennil and Woodrow and for providing questions in advance of the meeting.

Mariposa County: No report

Alpine County: No report

Agency: Ms. Murdaugh reported the Agency continued work on the BLS Tiered Response in Stanislaus County. A memo will go out today updating the stakeholders on the process moving forward., Effective November 1, 2021 AMR and Oak Valley Ambulance will implement the BLS tiered response for their response zones. Implementation on the west side of the county for Patterson District Ambulance and Westside Community Ambulance has been delayed pending some further collaboration with stakeholders. The Agency looks forward to implementing the BLS tier to alleviate stress on the ALS response system.

The Agency continues to support the MHOAC in Stanislaus County for resource requesting which has literally aken two employees to take care of that workload. Ms. Murdauch recognized Justin Murdock and Tom Morton for the work they have performed during the pandemic. The Agency has contracted with an individual formerly employed by Stanislaus County to take on the load for resource requesting and monitoring the MHOAC requests in Stanislaus County. This was done to help free up Mr. Morton and Mr. Murdock to attend to other Agency responsibilities in their respective positions that had been on the back burner due to MHOAC workload demands.

Ms. Murdaugh will be reaching out to Dr. Sergienko and Jesse Figueroa in Mariposa County to discuss the ambulance provider contract with Mercy Medical Transport and resume the work started by the Agency's previous Executive Director.

Michael Courtney thanked Ms. Murdaugh but also voiced his concern over meetings being held concerning the west side, the west side ambulance providers and the BLS tiered response and the leadership of Westside Ambulance not being included in those meetings. It is important for the ambulance providers to have a say in what is going on, but it seems like these discussions are happening behind closed doors without the providers involved.

Ms. Murdaugh responded she had a conversation with Mr. Courtney regarding the meeting he cited in his comment. That particular meeting he referred to was attended by Ms. Murdaugh and was not initiated by the Agency. It was a meeting with some of the stakeholders on the west side and they voiced their concerns. Ms. Murdaugh committed to Mr. Courtney that moving forward through the delay of the BLS tier implementation on the west side, stakeholders will be gathered to address concerns.

Q. Next Scheduled Regular Meeting

November 4, 2021 at 10:00 AM Via Zoom

R. Adjournment

Chairperson Tofanelli adjourned the meeting at 12:03 PM.