

**Mountain-Valley  
Emergency Medical Services Agency  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
October 17, 2022**

Location: Via Zoom  
Time: 10:00 AM

Board Members Present: Gary Tofanelli (Chairperson) – Calaveras County; Terry Woodrow - Alpine County; Miles Menetrey – Mariposa County

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

Guests: Alan McNany – American Legion Ambulance; Chris Edgerly - Calaveras County Public Health; Chief Mike Johnson – Ebbetts Pass Fire District

Staff: Cindy Murdaugh – Executive Director; Susan Watson – Executive Secretary/Financial Services Assistant; Tom Morton – Communications/Data Systems Coordinator; Kamron Dirks – Quality Improvement Coordinator; Dave Ritchie – Agency Legal Counsel

**A. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 AM by Chairperson Tofanelli with a quorum of three members present.

**B. Welcome and Introductions**

Ms. Watson conducted a roll call of the JPA Board members. Chairperson Tofanelli welcomed Dave Ritchie standing in as Agency Counsel for Derek Cole. The meeting guests introduced themselves.

**C. Resolution Continuing the Use of Remote Meetings**

Chairperson Tofanelli noted the use of remote meetings is expected to continue through February 2023.

M/S/C (Menetrey/Woodrow) To approve the continued use of Zoom meetings.

**Motion Passed 3-0-1**

**D. Correspondence**

None.

**E. Additions, Deletions, Corrections to Agenda**

M/S/C (Woodrow/Menetrey) To approve the meeting agenda as submitted.

**Motion Passed 3-0-1**

**F. Public Forum**

None.

**G. Approval of Consent Calendar**

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

**Motion Passed 3-0-1**

**H. FY 22/23 Agreement with the Emergency Medical Services Authority**

Ms. Murdaugh discussed the FY 22/23 Agreement with the Emergency Medical Services Authority for matching funds from the State General Fund. The allocation of \$656,956 supports 76% of the Agency's proposed operating budget and represents the initial allocation of \$272,956 plus an additional \$384,000 which is from the State's recently approved budget increase to support Regional EMS Agencies throughout California.

These funds will be used toward personnel salaries and fringe benefits; the Medical Director contract; the annual financial audit; and most operational expenses in performing the mandatory functions of the Agency for each of our member counties. The Board was asked to approve the agreement and authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract.

M/S/C (Woodrow/Menetrey) To approve the FY 22/23 Agreement with the Emergency Medical Services Authority.

**Motion Passed 3-0-1**

**I. FY 22/23 Proposed Budget Revisions**

Ms. Watson presented the proposed FY 22/23 operating budget revisions to reflect the use of the increased allocation in State General Funds as delineated in the Agency's application to the Emergency Medical Services Authority.

Chairperson Tofanelli requested the current amount in the Treasury, which was at approximately \$1.5M.

M/S/C (Menetrey/Woodrow) To approve the FY 22/23 proposed budget revision.

**Motion Passed 3-0-1**

**J. Revised Agency Organization Chart**

Ms. Murdaugh reviewed the revised organization chart to reflect the Agency's current staffing structure and to include the addition of an EMS Specialist II as a Disaster Preparedness Coordinator. These revisions are consistent with the Agency's application to the Emergency Medical Services Authority.

M/S/C (Woodrow/Menetrey) To approve the revised Agency organization chart.

**Motion Passed 3-0-1**

**K. FY 21/22 Preliminary Year-End Financial Reports**

Ms. Watson explained the draft FY 21/22 year-end financial reports which were currently being audited by Stroub Thompson Noble. The Agency ended the year with a small loss that represented 3% of the FY 21/22 operating budget.

M/S/C (Menetrey/Woodrow) To approve the FY 21/22 preliminary year-end financial reports.

**Motion Passed 3-0-1**

**L. Policy Discussion on Interfacility Transfers of Behavioral Health Patients**

Ms. Murdaugh reviewed draft policy 470.00, Behavioral Health Interfacility Transfers. The Agency is converting the present Mariposa County-specific policy 944.00 to a regional policy. American Legion Ambulance has expressed interest in upstarting a safety car for interfacility transfers of qualifying behavioral health patients in Amador and Calaveras counties.

Ms. Murdaugh provided some background on a recent notification from CMS to John C. Fremont Hospital in Mariposa County to stop the process they were using to contract out for the transfer of behavioral health patients. The Agency has gone through the process to request the documentation from CDPH and CMS and once that is received it will be reviewed by the Agency Medical Director as well as Agency legal counsel.

Since the notification, there has been a struggle in Mariposa County getting behavioral health patients transferred out of John C. Fremont Hospital, so they are looking at other options which have not yet come to fruition.

Ms. Murdaugh reached out to EMSAAC, who resurrected a prior sub-group to deal with this issue throughout the State. Coordination for a meeting is underway.

Mr. McNany noted page 2 of the draft policy 470.00 was missing from the JPA Board packet. The Board members concurred. Ms. Watson offered to rescan and email the policy.

Ms. Murdaugh explained page 2 of the policy contained additional definitions and emphasized the mode of transport decision for transferring a behavioral health patient rests with the Emergency Department physician.

Mr. McNany asked if the requirement for an EMT had been changed to first aid certified. Ms. Murdaugh affirmed it had been changed to a minimum of first aid/CPR. This was approved by the Agency Medical Director.

Chairperson Tofanelli said he has not heard from the Calaveras County Health Director nor County Counsel on the policy; and since Vice-Chairperson Brown is absent, we don't know

if Amador County's Health Director or County Counsel have had a change to look at this draft policy either. He would like the draft policy sent to the Amador and Calaveras County Health Directors and County Counsels for their review and comments; and then bring it back to this Board for approval after that has happened.

Ms. Murdaugh stated the Agency Medical Director has reviewed and approved this policy. He is open to having these discussions with the other Health Directors and County Counsels to bring resolution to transporting behavioral patients in the region. The current situation is impacting both ambulance providers and hospitals.

Chairperson Tofanelli asked what the approved other mode of transportation would be, citing the incident in Mariposa County. Ms. Murdaugh provided further detail on the incident in question. Supervisor Menetrey provided additional clarification.

Chairperson Tofanelli requested Ms. Murdaugh advise the Board when the requested documentation arrives as well as the information it contains.

Chairperson Tofanelli cited the definition of the safety car in the policy and asked who approves the vehicle. Ms. Murdaugh replied it's the Agency's responsibility to inspect the safety car before it is put into service in a similar process as that being used for BLS and ALS ambulances. Chairperson Tofanelli asked the policy be changed to say the vehicle will be annually approved.

Mr. McNany noted the policy needs to go out for 30 day review so it could be commented then by County Counsel.

Mr. Ritchie explained policy reviews can happen multiple times when significant changes result from the review. The 30 day review period could be simultaneous to the review by County Counsel. A second 30 day review would be done if there were significant changes by County Counsel. Chairperson Tofanelli agreed with this approach.

The Board so directed Agency staff.

#### **M. Agency and County Reports**

Agency – Ms. Murdaugh reported the language and map in the new ambulance provider agreement in Mariposa County has been approved by the County. The Agency is awaiting the Yosemite Park MOU document from public health to be included as an attachment to the agreement. Once that is received, the agreement will be sent to Mercy Medical Transport for their review and hopefully their signature.

Mr. Morton reported a meeting is being coordinated with the CalFire CAD people in Sacramento for the Mariposa data. Calaveras data is stable. Verification is underway with

the Amador CAD vendor to be sure all the back data is captured back to the beginning of the contract.

In disaster preparedness, the Agency is working with each of the member counties individually to revise the MHOAC Activation/Notification policy based on lessons learned from Covid. There is an exercise plan currently being developed with Calaveras County.

Mariposa County – Supervisor Menetrey met with Mercy Medical Transport. They are struggling with staffing. He requests a Board agenda item be brought forward for discussion and direction regarding the Agency policies developed for urban areas regarding 911 response to BLS calls and the use of certain medications not permitted to be used in the rural areas. The understanding right now is that only ALS ambulances may respond to 911 calls.

Ms. Murdaugh offered to connect with Jesse Figueroa and Dr. Kann regarding BLS tiered response as it was implemented in Amador County. She will also ask Dr. Kann to review the use of medications.

Mr. McNany said he talks with Jesse Figueroa often. Most of the rural counties are facing similar staffing issues that are requiring some cars to be shut down. There is a national crisis in shortages of full-time paramedics, EMTs, and EMD dispatchers. Adaptation is required.

Alpine County – No report.

Calaveras County – No report.

**N. Next Scheduled Regular Meeting**

M/S/C (Woodrow/Menetrey) To meet Monday, December 5, 2022 at 10:00 AM via Zoom.

**Motion Passed 3-0-1**

**O. Adjournment**

Chairperson Tofanelli adjourned the meeting at 11:14 AM.