

**Mountain-Valley  
Emergency Medical Services Agency  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
February 11, 2015**

Location: Copperopolis Fire Station  
Training Room  
370 Main St.  
Copperopolis, CA 95228

Time: 9:00 AM

Board Members Present: Terry Woodrow – Alpine County; Louis Boitano (Chair) – Amador County; Debbie Ponte – Calaveras County; John Carrier (Vice-Chair) – Mariposa County

Board Members Absent: Jim DeMartini – Stanislaus County

Guests: Mike Johnson, Alan McNany, Al Lennox

Staff: Richard Murdock - Executive Director; Tom Morton – Communication/Data Systems Analyst; Susan Watson – Executive Secretary/Financial Services Assistant

**A. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 am by Chairman Boitano with a quorum of members present.

**B. Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed those present and self-introductions were accomplished.

**C. Correspondence**

There were two pieces of correspondence:

Letter, dated January 13, 2015, from the County of Alpine appointing Supervisor Terry Woodrow as the 2015 Alpine County liaison to Mountain-Valley EMS Agency. Supervisor Mary Rawson was appointed as the alternate.

Letter, dated January 15, 2015, from the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors appointing Supervisor John Carrier as the 2015 representative to the Mountain-Valley EMS Agency. Supervisor Rosemarie Smallcombe was appointed as the alternate.

**D. Additions/Deletions, Corrections to Agenda**

None.

**E. Public Forum**

None.

**F. Approval of Consent Calendar**

M/S/C (Woodrow/Ponte) To Approve the Consent Calendar.

Vote: 4-0

**Motion Passed**

**G. FY 13/14 Financial Audit Engagement**

Mr. Murdock introduced the FY 13/14 Financial Audit Engagement Letter from Fechter & Company, CPAs. This is the third year the audit is being performed by this firm, although different staff have been provided each year. The cost is increased by 2.5% from the previous audit expense, but fits within the Agency's approved budget line for this item.

Ms. Watson explained the auditing firm's offer to provide a multi-year letter of intent. There is not a financial incentive, as each year the audit cost will increase 2.5% from the previous year. The Board requested to move to a bi-annual audit if contractual documents permit. A researched response will be provided to the Board at the April 2015 meeting.

**M/S/C (Ponte/Woodrow) To Approve the FY 13/14 Financial Audit Engagement Letter.**

Vote: 4-0

**Motion Passed**

**H. NorCalAmbulance Dispatch Agreement**

Mr. Murdock presented the Dispatch Agreement with NorCal Ambulance. The provider was previously approved to offer BLS ambulance service in Stanislaus County.

Board discussion concerned assurance the indemnification clause covers the JPA Board members.

**M/S/C (Woodrow/Carrier) To Approve the NorCal Ambulance Dispatch Agreement.**

Vote: 4-0

**Motion Passed**

**I. 2011 Transportation Plan for Amador County**

Mr. Murdock reported the status of the decision to appeal the EMS Authority denial of the 2011 Transportation Plan for Amador County. The decision to appeal was made in conjunction with Supervisor Louis Boitano, Amador County Counsel Greg Gillott, and American Legion Ambulance leadership, Al Lennox and Alan McNany. Mr. Murdock is currently drafting a letter for County Counsel review. Once finalized, the letter will be distributed to all involved parties, including the JPA Board members.

The EMS Commission is developing the appeal process, as there is not a precedent established. The Administrative Law Judge process will be followed. There is an approximate wait time of 6 months to 1 year once the appeal is filed with the EMS Commission. More information will follow at the next EMS Commission meeting in March 2015.

Mr. Lennox expressed his support of the appeal process as a benefit to the entire EMS system.

**J. Advanced EMT Course**

Mr. Murdock reported eleven students passed the written, oral and practical entrance exam. Classes begin on February 18, 2015, convening on Wednesday evenings and all day Saturday for nine weeks. Once the classroom instruction is completed, there will be 40 hours of clinical time at Mark Twain Medical Center and 40 hours of ride time with American Legion Ambulance.

**K. Community Paramedicine Pilot Project**

Mr. Murdock reviewed the Community Paramedicine Pilot Project study topic of evaluating behavioral health patients in the field, and transporting medically cleared individuals directly to a behavioral health facility rather than to the hospital emergency department.

Six paramedics in Stanislaus County have been selected for the Study. They are halfway done with the core curriculum which is being taught by UCLA via webex. Additionally, a Public Health nurse, the Public Health Officer and Dr. Mackey are teaching afternoon classes. Once the classroom time is completed, there will be 40 hours of screening shadowing with an ER doctor at Doctors Medical Center and Doctors Behavioral Health Center.

Dr. Mackey and Mr. Murdock are working with one hospital regarding Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) issues.

The pilot is expected to go live in early June 2015. The study involves compiling data and will be a fast-paced project. The eventual goal of the study is to assist the EMS Authority in effecting legislative changes to expand the scope of practice for paramedics. If the law is changed in California, paramedics could be used more extensively across the system for such things as reducing the load from Emergency Departments; reducing the number of hospital readmissions; assisting fire agencies to provide a clinical setting for screening, advice and referrals; and assist medical groups in follow-up care and monitoring of patients.

Such a change would bring California in line with other states, some of whom have had community paramedicine for ten years.

**L. Demonstration of FirstWatch Reports**

Mr. Morton explained the use of the FirstWatch surveillance software and demonstrated the variety of reports available to monitor the EMS system in real-time. The first phase of the Agency's FirstWatch project took place in Stanislaus County. The second phase will focus on Amador and Calaveras Counties. Various discussions with American Legion Ambulance, County Public Health representatives, County Supervisors and Sheriff's Office representatives are all being scheduled to introduce the FirstWatch software and address technical issues.

Mr. Murdock stated the FirstWatch software is a reliable tool the Agency can stand on to defend processes and data. He also described the fine provisions in the ambulance provider contracts and the structure of the System Enhancement Funds in Stanislaus County. He recommended structuring such funds in Amador and Calaveras Counties as well.

**M. Trauma Program Management**

Mr. Murdock reviewed the Trauma Coordinator position that is currently vacant, and the Trauma Program currently divided between he and Dr. Mackey. The Agency is currently developing a flyer to potentially contract with a trauma nurse for up to 20 hours/week in the next fiscal year. Dr. Mackey has requested a contract amendment to remove the trauma system responsibilities from his scope of work.

**N. Agency and County Reports**

*Alpine County* – No report.

*Amador County* – There was an officer-involved shooting over the past weekend. The suspect was transported via ground ambulance with a gun shot wound to the shoulder.

*Calaveras County* – The County is currently evaluating the value of retaining the EMS Oversight Committee (EMSOC) and considering how it should function moving forward.

*Mariposa County* - The new Health Officer is Dr. Ryder. He comes from San Diego and is currently becoming familiar with his new responsibilities.

*Stanislaus County* – No report.

**O. Next Scheduled Meeting**

April 8, 2015, 9:00 AM, Copperopolis Fire Station Training Room

**P. Adjournment**

Chairman Boitano adjourned the meeting at 10:25 AM.