

**Stanislaus County  
Emergency Medical Services Committee  
September 12, 2019  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

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Location: Health Education and Conference Center  
McHenry Village  
1700 McHenry Ave., Suite #60B.  
Modesto, CA 95350

Time: 2:00 PM

Committee Members Present: Paul Baxter, Mary Ann Lilly-Tengowski, Richard Murdock, Toby Wells, Sharon Young, Robert Ott, Dr. Niamh Seavy, Dan Cummins, Bryan Whitemyer

Committee Members Absent: Dr. Bruce Laverty

Guests: Tim Tietjen, Dave Dalman, Cindy Woolston, Barry Hurd, Jim Ferrera, Deb Thrasher, Caser Comer, Reymundo Marquez

Staff: Lance Doyle – Executive Director, Susan Watson – Executive Secretary/ Financial Services Assistant; Jim Whitworth – QI/Trauma Coordinator

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**1. Welcome and Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 PM by Chairman Paul Baxter with a quorum of eight members present.

**2. Introductions**

Committee members, Agency staff, and audience provided introductions.

**3. Review and Approval of Agenda**

**M/S/C (Seavy/Wells)** To approve the agenda as amended.

**Vote: 6-0**

**Motion Passed**

**4. Correspondence**

None.

**5. Public Comment Period**

None.

**6. Approval of Consent Calendar**

a. Chief Murdock pulled Consent Item #3, Public Response Compliance Reports - June 2019 for discussion.

- 1) Chief Murdock asked Oak Valley District Ambulance has been out of compliance for three consecutive compliance periods.
- 2) Mr. Doyle responded this is the third instance of three consecutive compliance periods being out of compliance. Per the contract this constitutes a Major Breach. The Agency met with Hospital District Administration and made them aware of the seriousness of their non-compliance as well as their historical compliance record. There is a commitment from Administration to meet with the Agency to develop a Corrective Action Plan.
- 3) Barry Hurd said the call volume had exploded over the summer. In addition there had been some staffing issues as well as some scheduling issues as the fleet is being reworked. However, under the upcoming EMS system redesign, there would have been very little issues with compliance.

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- 4) Mr. Doyle acknowledged the providers have been experiencing an increase in clustering of calls since late spring 2019.
  - 5) Cindy Woolston confirmed the increase in call volume and clustering.
  - 6) Chairman Baxter recommended the providers be more proactive to adjust to call volume increases.
  - 7) Mr. Doyle reminded the Committee of the FirstWatch surveillance tool that gives the providers the opportunity to see where adjustment are needed.
  - 8) Cindy Woolston discussed AMR's hiring policies to keep a flow of new staffing available. The cause of these call volume surges is difficult to pinpoint and is not limited to Stanislaus County.
  - 9) Mr. Doyle discussed the Agency's use of Round Robin to help relieve backlogs at the hospital emergency departments. It has already been used three times this year and a separate 5150 round robin has also been developed to deal with the surge in psychiatric calls. Ultimately the solution for surges is to add unit hours and the system needs to be able to adjust as necessary.
  - 10) Chairman Baxter requested an update at the next EMSC meeting.
- b. As a follow-up to the last EMSC meeting, Paul Baxter asked if the cancellation rates had been reviewed. Mr. Doyle explained the rural providers have higher cancellation rates than AMR. This is an issue the Agency will pursue in the Local Quality Improvement Group.

**M/S/C** (Murdock/Wells) To approve the consent calendar items as submitted.

**Vote: 8-0**

**Motion Passed**

**7. Committee Reports**

- a) System Status – Cindy Woolston  
 The System Status group met today. Most of the content will be addressed in the Agency reports in later agenda items.
- b) SCHEPC – Chief Richard Murdock  
 There will be a Statewide Medical Health tabletop exercise taking place on September 18, 2019 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM here at the education center. The focus of the exercise is on pediatric surge. This will evolve into a full-scale exercise on November 7, 2019 at the Turlock Fairgrounds. The focus is on pediatric surge and we will be practicing field triage; destination decisions for pediatric patients that under 14; transporting patients to Emanuel Medical Center, Doctors Hospital and Oak Valley Hospital.
- c) OES – Chief Richard Murdock  
 Stanislaus County sent a field paramedic, a strike team and strike team leader as fire/rescue mutual aid to the Walker Fire in Plumas County. They will be back sometime next week.

OES is working around some changes within the structure of Emergency Management. Chief Eric Holly recently retired and the Deputy Chief position is not being refilled. OES is underfilling with one staff services coordinator and hoping to hire two more by the end of the fiscal year. This will beef up the emergency management side and place a larger emphasis on emergency management.

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The draft Emergency Operations Plan has been finalized. It has been a five-year project and the plan will go to the Board of Supervisors in November 2019 for approval.

**8. Stanislaus EMS System Redesign Update**

Mr. Doyle reported the Agency is working on contracts with AMR, the fire agencies and the hospital districts. The AMR agreement is complete and is being mailed out for signature this week. It will go to our JPA Board in either October or December.

The First Responder ALS agreements went out about two weeks ago to Modesto Fire and Stanislaus Consolidated Fire.

The hospital district agreements are currently being finished. They will be sent out next week with subsequent meetings to be held to discuss the various system changes.

The EMT and Volunteer Fire agreement template is with the Agency legal counsel. When it comes back those agreements will be completed and sent out.

The goal is to have all these agreements to our JPA Board meeting in December 2019.

As part of the system redesign all of the EMT and paramedic level fire departments will need to complete a PCR. They have all committed to go to MEDS which is the AMR program that they'll be providing. There have already been some meetings and AMR is working on a training. Cindy Woolston shared there will be a demo provided to the policy makers within the fire districts and then there will be train-the-trainer courses.

The Agency is working on the FirstWatch build out for the fire agencies.

There has been a first planning meeting for the mobile simulation lab, which will be the Agency's simulation manikin placed in a fully-stocked ambulance provided by AMR. There is a local EMS training group started by Jake Schulke which will be a good resource for scheduling field training. The Agency will start a search for an EMS educator in the next couple of weeks.

Mrs. Lilly-Tengowski asked the date of the December 2019 JPA Board meeting. The meeting will be Wednesday, December 11, 2019.

Chairman Baxter asked that a report be given at the next EMSC meeting.

**9. System Enhancement Fund Application**

Mr. Doyle presented a System Enhancement Fund Application from the Agency for the purchase of the initial medications and equipment required by the EMT expanded scope of practice. The purchase would be for the first responding engines in the County. Because of the system redesign, the fire agencies have to work at the top of the EMT skills. The requested amount NTE \$38,606.11 would provide for one hundred engines. We know there are fifty first-out engines and the request allows for an additional fifty in order to capture all engines that provide regular medical care. This comes to approximately \$400 per engine and is a significant savings versus the cost to the fire agencies to make this purchase at approximately \$1,000 per engine.

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Chief Murdock asked how the EMT quality improvement would be handled for the fire agencies. Mr. Doyle responded each fire agency would perform in-house quality improvement and provide clinical oversight per the terms of the contract. Additionally, the Agency will oversee clinical performance through FirstPass.

EMT and Paramedic level fire departments need to complete an ePCR (MEDS). The volunteer departments need to complete their current NFERS reports with the medical tab also completed.

Mrs. Lilly-Tengowski noted the quote in the purchase request does not support the amount in the application. Further, there needs to be more support of the second fifty engines. These corrections will need to be completed before this can move forward to the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Wells supported the flexibility for the second and third out engines since there are so many variables involved.

Mr. Doyle explained the intent was to supply the engines that are regularly providing medical care and cautioned against polling every fire agency to avoid having the requested numbers significantly higher.

Chairman Baxter stated the system needs to be fair to every agency.

Mr. Doyle asked for approval of the concept and committed to working with Mrs. Lilly-Tengowski to clean up the request.

Tim Tietjen noted the time crunch to have these initial medications and equipment in place.

Chairman Baxter noted that a request so open-ended will not be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Cummins stated his agreement with Chief Tietjen and also stated 100 is probably too many.

Mrs. Lilly-Tengowski recommended if the Committee wants to move forward, the request that goes to the Board of Supervisors won't be more than this.

**M/S/C (Murdock/Wells) To recommend moving this System Enhancement Fund Request forward to the Board of Supervisors with better defined equipment allocation and an amount no greater than that cited in this application..**

**Vote: 8-0**

**Motion Passed**

***Let the record show Bryan Whitemyer arrived at 2:40 pm.***

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**10. Agency Medical Director**

Mr. Doyle reported Dr. Gregory Kann was selected as the Agency Medical Director. He is a practicing emergency physician with Kaiser Permanente. The contract is currently being developed. Approval is expected in October 2019. Dr. Mackey is still the Agency Medical Director for now.

Chairman Baxter asked the Agency to invite Dr. Kann to the next EMSC meeting.

**11. Community Paramedicine**

Mr. Doyle reported the 5150 Task Force has been on hiatus for a few weeks in terms of the meetings. In county work has been status quo with the 24/7 community paramedics.

AB1544 was pulled last week.

The EMS Regulations and Scope of Practice for alternate destinations is expected to be out next year. This will allow EMS to transport patients to both behavioral health centers and sobering centers.

The Community Paramedicine pilot program terms on 10/31/19 but another extension is expected.

**12. CAD-to-CAD Update**

Mr. Doyle reported that SR911 has identified September 23, 2019 as the Go Live date for CAD-to-CAD which is the link between the SR911 CAD and VRECC Emergency Medical Dispatch Center. This will allow the implementation of the EMS System redesign by monitoring fire and tying the fire and EMS calls together for response times.

Chief Murdock requested a demonstration of the CAD-to-CAD at the next EMSC meeting.

**13. Modification to Policy 951-20, Stanislaus County System Enhancement Funds**

Mr. Doyle presented a draft revision to Policy 951.20 to provide a mechanism to return unspent funds to the account.

Mrs. Lilly-Tengowski suggested the reallocation of unspent can be accomplished administratively without authorization from the Committee. Secondly, provide a report to the Committee as an additional line item in the System Enhancement Funds report already provided to the Committee.

Chief Murdock asked how the NTE amounts will be affected if there is a balance remaining. Mr. Doyle responded the Agency would confirm the project is closed before reallocating funds.

Mr. Cummins stated the timeline would depend on each individual project.

Further Committee discussion settled on an annual report to the EMSC.

Committee action was tabled. The policy will be revised and brought back to the Committee at the December 2019 meeting.

**14. SB438 Update**

Mr. Doyle discussed the status of SB438, the EMS dispatch bill that has been written from the fire side. The bill is currently on the Governor's desk and is expected to be signed. This bill would mandate that any EMS dispatch of a public entity comes from a public dispatch center. Stanislaus County uses a private dispatch center (VRECC). However, there is now a provision in the bill where the system in Stanislaus County would be grandfathered in and could continue with our current emergency medical dispatch system that is in place. VRECC is a high-performing EMS dispatch center with full ACE-accreditation, interrogation, pre-arrival instructions, and is integrated into the Agency cardiac arrest protocols and has proven to be effective.

There is still the opportunity for individual fire districts to choose to only be dispatched by another public agency, which in Stanislaus would be SR911. There is some talk in that direction. Some of the fire agencies are exploring their options.

The grandfathering clause exempts a JPA that was in existence before January 1, 2019; and also exempts any contracts that were in place before January 1, 2019. Without these exemptions, SB438 would have immediately outlawed the EMS dispatch systems in thirteen different counties in California.

**15. Next Regular Meeting**

Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 2:00 PM at this location.

**16. Adjournment**

Chairman Baxter adjourned the meeting at 2:57 PM.