

**Stanislaus County
Emergency Medical Services Committee
September 10, 2020
Regular Meeting Minutes**

Location: Via Zoom
Time: 2:00 PM
Committee Members Present: Paul Baxter, Mary Ann Lilly-Tengowski, Richard Murdock, Joseph Lopez, Sharon Young, Robert Ott, Dr. Niamh Seavy, Dr. Bruce Laverty
Committee Members Absent: Dan Cummins, Bryan Whitemyer
Guests: Shannon Williamns, Pat Burns, Clint Bray
Staff: Lance Doyle – Executive Director, Cindy Murdaugh – Deputy Director, Susan Watson – Executive Secretary/ Financial Services Assistant; Jim Whitworth – QI/Trauma Coordinator, Tom Morton – Data Systems/Communications Coordinator

1. Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM by Chairman Paul Baxter with a quorum of eight members present.

2. Introductions

Ms. Watson conducted a roll call of the Committee members and confirmed the quorum present.

3. Review and Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (Lilly-Tengowski/Ott) To approve the agenda.

Vote: 8-0

Motion Passed

4. Correspondence

There were four pieces of correspondence:

- a. Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors letter dated December 17, 2019 reappointing Paul Baxter to the Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2022.
- b. Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors letter dated December 17, 2019 reappointing Dr. Bruce Laverty to the Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2022.
- c. Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors letter dated December 17, 2019 reappointing Mary Ann Lilly-Tengowski to the Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2022.
- d. Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors letter dated December 31, 2019 appointing Joseph Lopez to the Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2022.

5. Public Comment Period

None.

6. **Approval of Consent Calendar**

M/S/C (Ott/Lilly-Tengowski) To approve the consent calendar.

Vote: 7-0-1 (Mr. Lopez abstained as he was not present at the December 10, 2019 meeting.)

Motion Passed

7. **Committee Reports**

a) **System Status** – Cindy Woolston

System Status has been meeting virtually and met this morning. The Committee went through the standing meeting items and discussed the new contract. As a result there were changes to the system plan for AMR and Oak Valley Ambulance.

b) **SCHEPC** – Shannon Williams

At the last meeting in July 2020, the Coalition took the time to conduct an After Action meeting for the first 90 days of the COVID response with the healthcare partners.

- The Coalition has practiced and exercised together over the years and this enabled collaboration and positive communication during this response.
- There have been frequent meetings to keep communications open regarding plans and processes.
- A continuing challenge has been the supply levels and supply chain,
- The County has put together a PPE store front, to make sure we can support local healthcare facilities.
- The After Action Report will be produced by the SCHEPC Co-Chair, Aaron Wilson.
- The next SCHEPC meeting will on October 5, 2020 in a virtual format.

c) **OES** – Richard Murdock

- The EOC has been at a Level I activation for the past six months and expect to remain at that level for another six months or longer.
- The EOC was simultaneously activated at a Level II in response to the Diablo Grande fire and the required evacuation of the Diable Grande community. This lasted for about a week.
- The EOC was also activated at a Level III for civil unrest.
- This has been an extremely active fire season. Strike teams and overhead resources have been sent to many areas in California.
- The Homeland Security Grant will be finalized for the next fiscal year and go to the Board of Supervisors in the next couple of months.
- OES is currently working on the Emergency Management Program Grant.
- On September 22, 2020 OES and the Fire Warden's Office will move their division out of the Chief Executive Office and over to the Sheriff's Department.

8. **Election of 2020 Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson**

M/S/C (Murdock/Lilly-Tengowski) To nominate Paul Baxter as the Chairperson.

Vote: 8-0

Motion Passed

M/S/C (Murdock/Young) To nominate Mary Ann Lilly-Tengowski as the Vice-Chairperson.

Vote: 8-0

Motion Passed

9. Stanislaus EMS System Redesign Implementation

Lance Doyle presented a historical recap of the EMS System Redesign origin, goals and process through the RFP and its resulting contract award to AMR with an implementation date of January 1, 2020. This was followed by a comprehensive discussion of pre-launch activities which included:

- The completion of contracts with twelve of the sixteen fire agencies in Stanislaus County.
 - Two volunteer fire agencies (Hughson Fire and Mt. View Fire) have expressed some interest, but agreements have not yet been completed.
 - Two volunteer fire agencies (Woodland Ave. Fire and Turlock Rural Fire) felt they would not be able to meet the response time compliance standards.
- A significant software integration with all of the ALS and BLS fire agencies.
- The requirement for EMT level departments to perform at the EMT Expanded Scope which entailed a significant purchase of new equipment. This was accomplished through System Enhancement Funds and completed close to the launch date.
- Contracting with the ambulance providers and system design for the three hospital district ambulance providers to include the accompanying fire first responder agreements for those districts.
- Integration of the metro deployment with the rural deployment plan so there would be one seamless system status plan throughout the County.
- Tom Morton discussed the data / FirstWatch projects which included:
 - SR911 CAD Data integration to FirstWatch that includes only the EMS calls to which fire agencies respond.
 - In the absence of an active CAD-to-CAD interface, the development of a viable process to allow the fire reimbursement process to proceed.
 - The completion of the new ambulance provider Online Compliance Utility (OCU) which the providers are actively using. Compliance reports are available.
 - The completion of the new fire agency OCU. Training with the fire agencies is ongoing to help them learn how to process their calls, which is a component toward providing compliance reports.
 - The ongoing development of specifically requested reports to assist the fire agencies.

Lance Doyle reported a majority of the Agency's work since the launch has been integrating the fire first responders into the Agency's regular EMS program. Although there are still some growing pains to work through, the collaboration and willingness of the fire agencies to embrace the EMS training and education has been very successful. Fire first responder agencies are now represented in the:

- Local Quality Improvement Group
- Dispatch Governance Committee
- System Status Committee
- Trauma Advisory Committee
- EMS Training Committee

Jim Whitworth discussed the clinical aspects of the EMS System, noting two additional employees have been hired for the Agency's clinical team.

- FirstPass is the clinical oversight product of FirstWatch
 - ePCR data from all ALS providers is flowing into the FirstPass program.
 - The Agency is working on coding with FirstWatch.
 - The Agency Medical Director will be trained in FirstPass before it is released.
 - The Agency expects to be actively using FirstPass in early 2021.
- Quality Improvement initiatives include looking at patient care reports for all STEMI, Stroke, Cardiac Arrest, and Sepsis patients.
- The Agency is close to adopting a Comprehensive Stroke Center in Stanislaus County. This type of center can treat patients with a stroke caused by a large vessel occlusion.
- The use of TXA medication in the MVEMSA region began June 1, 2020.
- AMR has received a grant to provide another class for the Community Paramedicine Project in October 2020. It is hoped the class will yield another five to seven community paramedics.

Lance Doyle discussed the Mobile Simulation Lab. AMR committed to donate a stocked and wrapped ambulance which will contain the Agency manikin. The final artwork for the wrap is in process. The Agency hired an EMS Education Coordinator who is in the process of building the education department. The Mobile Simulation Lab will be a regional resource and the Agency anticipates it being available for use a couple of weeks after the vehicle wrap is completed.

10. Discovery Period for Response Time Liquidated Damages

Lance Doyle described the provision in the current ambulance provider agreements for a discovery period which is a 90 day period where the Agency provides compliance reporting and the providers have the opportunity to adjust their posting plans and system status without the penalty of paying liquidated damages. Data driven decisions rely on compliance reporting for both the ambulance providers and the fire agencies.

The Agency lost six to eight months in data development due to COVID-related issues, and was finally able to deliver compliance reporting on September 1, 2020. The Agency proposes to extend the discovery period for the ambulance providers through compliance periods completed on or before November 30, 2020. This would give them the 90 day period to made adjustments without penalty of liquidated damages.

In addition, the Agency proposes to establish a discovery period for the contracted first responder fire agencies to waive all liquidated damages for compliance periods completed on or before November 30, 2020. The fire agencies have some concern in making compliance, but have agreed to work through the first six months of data so that compliance reports can be produced. The Agency and fire agencies will work together to evaluate the actual compliance and determine if any adjustments are needed. The proposed discovery period would allow time to address these issues without penalizing the fire agencies.

These proposals have been discussed with Supervisor DeMartini, who is supportive of their provisions. He is verifying whether or not they need to come before the Board of Supervisors. Both of these proposals would affect the System Enhancement Fund.

Bob Ott commented how fragile the present system is for the fire agencies and questioned if the discovery period should be longer. Lance Doyle affirmed the Agency is confident in its proposal, but is open to a longer period if the EMSC so recommends.

Mary Ann Lilly-Tengowski noted the ambulance agreements and fire agency agreements are actually with MVEMSA. However, as a practice, important information related to the EMS System Redesign has been brought before the Board of Supervisors as this issue is so important to the County. Any change in contract terms should likewise go to the Board of Supervisors for their support before they go to the JPA Board. Paul Baxter agreed this would be the right decision.

Further Committee discussion centered around the length of the discovery periods for both the ambulance providers and the fire agencies. It was decided to propose a discovery period for the fire agencies for all compliance periods completed on or before December 31, 2020.

It was noted there has already been a very long transitional period of forgiven liquidated damages for the ambulance providers through the RFP process to the implementation of the new ambulance provider agreements, so the Board of Supervisors may have concerns with another long extension of the discovery period for the ambulance providers. The Committee decided to propose the extension of the discovery period through all compliance periods completed on or before September 30, 2020.

M/S/C (Lilly-Tengowski/Ott) To forward a proposal to the Board of Supervisors to extend the existing discovery period for the ambulance providers through compliance periods completed on or before September 30, 2020; and to establish a discovery period for the fire agencies for all compliance periods completed on or before December 31, 2020.

Vote: 8-0

Motion Passed

11. COVID-19 Response Update

Lance Doyle reviewed the Agency's activities since mid-March 2020 to support the County during the COVID-19 response. The Agency enacted its Continuity of Operations Plan in mid-March to focus on ensuring our contractual functions were being performed. The Agency established remote work plans to allow employees to remain fully functional from home. The Agency Department Operations Center was open for approximately eight weeks. In the last six weeks, the Agency has been able to move back into some more regular operations.

Mike Vitro discussed the Agency's work as the EMS Liaison in the Medical/Health Branch of the Stanislaus County Emergency Operations Center as well as assistance to the Transportation Branch; the designated MHOAC functions to assist with resource requests and ordering; data interface between the County and EMResource; development of an EMS COVID-19 task force to be available to help Skilled Nursing Facilities on an interim basis in the case of staff walk-outs or sick calls; development of various policies, procedures and contingency plans to address many aspects of the COVID-19 response.

Let the record show Sharon Young and Mary Ann Lilly Tengowski left the meeting at 3:29 PM.

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12. CAD-to-CAD Update

No further report beyond the information provided earlier in the meeting.

13. Next Regular Meeting

Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 2:00 PM.

Richard Murdock thanked Mike Vitro of MVEMSA for his efforts to collaborate with OES; and thanked the ambulance providers who are supporting the mobile field testing in support of Public Health.

14. Adjournment

Chairman Baxter adjourned the meeting at 3:32 PM.