

**Mountain-Valley  
Emergency Medical Services Agency  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
December 12, 2019**

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

Time: 9:00 AM

Board Members Present: Jim DeMartini (Chairperson) – Stanislaus County; Terry Woodrow – Alpine County; Jeff Brown – Amador County; Miles Menetrey – Mariposa County; Dennis Mills – Calaveras County

Board Members Absent: Gary Tofanelli (Vice-Chairperson) – Calaveras County

Guests: Karin Hennings, Paul Willette, Michael Courtney, Alan McNany, Nicole Tucker, Ted Novelli;

Staff: Lance Doyle – Executive Director; Susan Watson – Executive Secretary/Financial Services Assistant; Derek Cole – Agency Legal Counsel

**A. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Chairperson DeMartini with a quorum of five members present.

**B. Welcome and Introductions**

The Chairperson welcomed those present and self-introductions were made by all participants.

**C. Correspondence**

None.

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

There were no additions, deletions or corrections to the meeting agenda.

**E. Public Forum**

None

**F. Approval of Consent Calendar**

M/S/C (Brown/Woodrow) To approve the Consent Calendar.

Vote: 5-0

**Motion Passed**

**G. Agreement with American Legion Ambulance Post No. 108 for Ambulance Services with Amador County**

Mr. Doyle presented the ambulance provider agreement with American Legion Ambulance for services in Amador County for a five year term commencing January 1, 2020. The agreement includes updated response compliance standards based on current GIS mapping.

Chairman DeMartini noted the response times are longer than those afforded rural providers in Stanislaus County.

Mr. Doyle explained the response time length was based on the nature of the rural response areas.

Supervisor Brown noted an error on the top of page 7 in the listing of the member counties that compose the Agency and asked that this be corrected before the agreement is signed.

Supervisor Brown also questioned why the agreement did not go through the Amador County Board of Supervisors before coming to the JPA Board of Directors.

Mr. Doyle said his interpretation of the ambulance ordinance did not require that step and cited past practice from the previous Executive Director.

M/S/C (Brown/Woodrow) To approve the agreement with American Legion Ambulance with the changes as noted.

Vote: 5-0

**Motion Passed**

**H. Amendment to Ambulance Provider Agreement with Mercy Medical Transportation, Inc.**

Mr. Doyle requested approval of a third amendment to the present ambulance provider agreement with Mercy Medical Transportation, Inc. for service in Mariposa County. This amendment would extend the present agreement for six months through June 30, 2020. Mr. Doyle has been working with Dr. Sergienko, County Health Officer, and Supervisor Menetrey to modernize the response grid system based on updated population density maps; and develop a structure of required response times as well as an associated fine structure. The contract extension is needed to allow time to complete this project as requested data from the CalFire dispatch system is currently pending.

Supervisor Mills asked if the project will be completed in six months.

Mr. Doyle responded optimistically.

M/S/C (Woodrow/Brown) To approve the third amendment to the ambulance provider agreement with Mercy Medical Transportation, Inc.

Vote: 5-0

**Motion Passed**

**I. Agreement with Air Methods Corporation through its subsidiary, Mercy Air Services, Inc. for EMS Aircraft Services**

Mr. Doyle discussed the renewal air ambulance agreement with Mercy Air Services, citing the base agreement is essentially unchanged aside from some minor changes in the insurance requirements to meet the current industry standard. The term of the agreement will be for three years beginning January 1, 2020. Within our region, Mercy Air is based in Mariposa County.

Chairman DeMartini commented the insurance limits seem excessive.

M/S/C (Menetrey/Woodrow) To approve the agreement with Air Methods Corporation through its subsidiary, Mercy Air Services, Inc.

Vote: 5-0

**Motion Passed**

**J. Agreement with PHI Health, LLC for EMS Aircraft Services**

Mr. Doyle stated the terms of the renewal air ambulance agreement with PHI Health, LLC are similar to those for the Mercy Air agreement. The term of the agreement will be for three years beginning January 1, 2020. Within our region PHI is based in Stanislaus County.

M/S/C (Woodrow/Brown) To approve the agreement with PHI Health, LLC.

Vote: 5-0

**Motion Passed**

**K. Agreement with REACH Air Medical Group for EMS Aircraft Services.**

Mr. Doyle cited the terms of the renewal air ambulance agreement with REACH Air Medical Group are consistent with those for both the Mercy Air and PHI Health agreements. The term of the agreement will be for three years beginning January 1, 2020. Within our region REACH is based in Stanislaus County.

M/S/C (Brown/Woodrow) To approve the agreement with REACH Air Medical Group.

Vote: 5-0

**Motion Passed**

**L. Agreement with Escalon Community Ambulance for Non-Emergency BLS Ground Ambulance Service for Inter-Facility Requests in Stanislaus County**

Mr. Doyle presented the renewal agreement with Escalon Community Ambulance, explaining the agreement is unchanged and the renewal term is for one year. He further explained the Agency plans to develop enhanced monitoring and oversight in the next agreement.

Chairman DeMartini asked what the enhancements would include.

Mr. Doyle cited clinical monitoring in FirstWatch and measures to encourage faster response to Inter-Facility Transfer requests.

Chairman DeMartini asked the Agency to poll the member counties for insurance requirements, saying there should be a \$2M minimum liability rather than the the present \$1M limit.

M/S/C (Brown/Menetrey) To approve the agreement with Escalon Community Ambulance.

Vote: 5-0

**Motion Passed**

**M. Agreement with NorCal Ambulance for Non-Emergency Ground Ambulance Service for Inter-Facility Transfers**

Mr. Doyle explained the renewal agreement with NorCal Ambulance is also unchanged from the current agreement and will have a one year term beginning January 1, 2020. Services are performed in Stanislaus County.

Supervisor Mills asked if there had been any discussion to provider a longer term than one year.

Chairman DeMartini stated the insurance limits are too light, but he will accept them for the renewal year.

M/S/C (Woodrow/Brown) To approve the agreement with NorCal Ambulance.

Vote: 5-0

**Motion Passed**

**N. Agreement with ProTransport-1, LLC for Non-Emergency Ground Ambulance Service for Inter-Facility Transfers**

Mr. Doyle reported ProTransport-1 has been an emergency ground ambulance provider in Stanislaus County, but as of January 1, 2020 will provide only non-emergency services for Inter-Facility requests. The term of this new agreement is for one year.

Chairman DeMartini noted the insurance limits in this agreement are \$5M liability as compared to the \$1M limits in the previous two agreements presented for approval on this meeting agenda.

M/S/C (Brown/Mills) To approve the agreement with Pro-Transport-1, LLC.

Vote: 5-0

**Motion Passed**

**O. Agreement with Sacramento Valley Ambulance for Non-Emergency Ground Ambulance Service for Inter-Facility Transfers**

Mr. Doyle stated this renewal agreement has terms consistent with the other renewal non-emergency agreements for services in Stanislaus County. The insurance liability limit is \$5M.

Chairman DeMartini said the \$5M limit should be the standard for all of the non-emergency ambulance providers.

M/S/C (Woodrow/Brown) To approve the agreement with Sacramento Valley Ambulance.

Vote: 5-0

**Motion Passed**

**P. Agreement with Del Puerto Health Care District for 9-1-1 Emergency Ambulance Services within Stanislaus County Zone 5**

Mr. Doyle presented the new ambulance provider agreement for Del Puerto Health Care District dba Patterson District Ambulance which reflects elements of the Stanislaus County EMS System redesign to include the incorporation of fire first response. The terms of the agreement accounts for the size of the provider to include adjustments in the insurance limits and the ability to extend the clock with a supervisor. The term of the agreement is for five years beginning January 1, 2020.

Chairman DeMartini noted the response time are much shorter than those in Amador County even though both are rural providers.

Mr. Doyle said the map in the agreement is the County-wide map. Del Puerto Health Care District operates in Zone 5.

Paul Willette of Patterson District Ambulance provided an example of incident clusters that occurred on November 7, 2019. He complimented Mr. Doyle on achieving the agreement and for listening to the provider's concerns. The health care district has signed the agreement, but there are concerns that because the nearest hospital is 30 miles away, it may be difficult to staff enough units during peak demands to meet the new response time standards. The health care district is willing to move forward in this attempt to morph the metro plan onto the rural providers, but want to be on record with their concerns that this agreement is financially unsustainable. Mr. Doyle told the health care district he is willing to revisit the agreement if needed.

Mr. Willette noted if fire shows up the ambulance provider has four more minutes to respond. This is more significant in the metro area but doesn't help much for the rural providers.

Chairman DeMartini asked if ambulances are stuck at the hospital.

Mr. Willette affirmed this is often the case.

Supervisor Mills asked how the incident cluster reflects on the provider.

Mr. Willette acknowledged the incident cluster is an anomaly but said other providers are impacted as well. If this type of incident cluster becomes a daily occurrence the provider must ramp up units and staffing and end up taking late call hits. They have to hope mutual aid is available.

Chairman DeMartini said the agreement can be revisited if needed to assure fairness to the rural providers.

Mr. Doyle complimented Mr. Willette on his on-time response record. He explained there are extra tools in the agreement. If wall times at the hospital are an issue there is an exemption process available to the provider.

M/S/C (Woodrow/Brown) To approve the agreement with Del Puerto Health Care District..

Vote: 5-0

**Motion Passed**

**Q. Agreement with Oak Valley Hospital District for 9-1-1 Emergency Ambulance Services within Stanislaus County Zones 4 and D**

Mr. Doyle presented the new ambulance provider agreement for Oak Valley Hospital District stating its terms match those of the agreement for Del Puerto Health Care District.

Chairman DeMartini observed the insurance liability limit is \$5M.

M/S/C (Brown/Woodrow) To approve the agreement with Oak Valley Hospital District..

Vote: 5-0

**Motion Passed**

**R. Agreement with Westside Community Healthcare District for 9-1-1 Emergency Ambulance Services within Stanislaus County Zone A**

Mr. Doyle stated the terms of this agreement are consistent with the agreements for Del Puerto Health Care District and Oak Valley Hospital District.

Chairman DeMartini reported Westside has turned things around and gave compliments to Dennis Brazil. The County is happy with the progress.

Michael Courtney of Westside Community Ambulance echoed the concerns expressed by Mr. Willette. He acknowledged Mr. Doyle put in place some things the Agency thinks will help, but stated the rural providers struggle.

Chairman DeMartini noted the Amador County provider is treated differently than the Stanislaus rural providers. Stanislaus County cannot afford to have the rural providers go under because of fines and shared the rural provider concerns.

Mr. Doyle cited the past practices of the previous Executive Director and said mid-contract adjustments could be made that don't affect clinical care.

M/S/C (Woodrow/Brown) To approve the agreement with Westside Community Healthcare District..

Vote: 5-0

**Motion Passed**

**S. Agreement with the City of Modesto Fire Department for ALS First Response Service in Stanislaus County**

Mr. Doyle explained the new ALS First Response agreement with the City of Modesto Fire Department reflects elements of the Stanislaus County EMS system redesign. The agreement is currently unsigned by the fire department.

Chairman DeMartini asked if the JPA Board is able to approve the agreement if it is unsigned.

Mr. Cole affirmed the JPA Board can approve the agreement and the Agency can then obtain signature from the other party.

M/S/C (Woodrow/Brown) To approve the agreement with the City of Modesto Fire Department.

Vote: 5-0

**Motion Passed**

**T. Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Modesto Fire Department for Reimbursement by Oak Valley Hospital District**

Mr. Doyle reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which is specific to certain BLS services performed in the Oak Valley Hospital District response area. The MOU is presently unsigned by the fire department.

Chairman DeMartini asked if the JPA Board is able to approve the MOU if it is unsigned.

Mr. Cole affirmed the JPA Board can approve the MOU and the Agency can then obtain signature from the other party.

M/S/C (Mills/Brown) To approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Modesto Fire Department.

Vote: 5-0

**Motion Passed**

**U. Agreement with Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District for ALS First Response Service in Stanislaus County**

Mr. Doyle reported Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District is not presently offering ALS service. The Agency offered them sixty days to bring ALS back by December 31, 2019. The district lost personnel to Modesto Fire when Oakdale pulled out of the fire protection district. They plan to put up two full-time ALS engines by the end of the year.

M/S/C (Woodrow/Brown) To approve the agreement with Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District.

Vote: 5-0

**Motion Passed**

**V. Memorandum of Understanding with Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District for Reimbursement by Oak Valley Hospital District**

Mr. Doyle said this is the companion MOU for certain BLS services to be performed in the Oak Valley Hospital District.

M/S/C (Brown/Woodrow) To approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District.

Vote: 5-0

**Motion Passed**

**W. Agreement with Burbank-Paradise Fire District for BLS First Response Service in Stanislaus County**

Chairman DeMartini stated the County is not in favor of this agreement as written. The liability insurance language is unacceptable to the County.

Mr. Doyle replied the insurance defaults to what is required by the fire agency governing body.

Mr. Cole explained that because it is BLS level of service, the risks are lower. The terms of the agreement are adequate but not optimal. From a legal standpoint it would be legitimate to ask for more coverage.

Mr. Doyle said all fire agencies are currently performing services. This agreement is for reimbursement and Agency monitoring of clinical performance. He requested a copy of the fire agency's insurance requirements and offered the Board an addendum to delineate the specific levels of insurance.

Chairman DeMartini said he will only accept the agreement with delineated insurance limits.

Mr. Cole explained the requirement of insurance for non-transporting EMS agencies can be regulated by policy but the legal basis does not exist in the EMS Act. If there is no agreement, the fire agencies will still perform BLS EMS services but will not be reimbursed in the EMS system redesign.

Mr. Doyle asked the Board to approve the agreement pending an addendum to delineate the insurance limits.

Chairman DeMartini advised that writing a 5 year agreement as a new agreement without insurance requirements is not a good practice. The insurance limits need to be \$1M minimum.

M/S/C (Woodrow/Brown) To approve the agreement with Burbank-Paradise Fire District with the additional requirement the fire district provide proof of insurance with a minimum of \$1M liability limits and an insurance addendum is signed prior to January 1, 2020.

Vote: 5-0

**Motion Passed**

**X. Agreement with Ceres Fire Department for BLS First Response Service in Stanislaus County.**

Mr. Doyle noted the City of Ceres inserted insurance language into the body of the agreement.

M/S/C (Brown/Mills) To approve the agreement with Ceres Fire Department.

Vote: 5-0

**Motion Passed**

**Y. Agreement with Salida Fire Protection District for BLS First Response Service in Stanislaus County**

Chairman DeMartini advised this agreement will also need an addendum to delineate the insurance requirements of \$1M minimum. The provider is to provide proof of insurance by January 1, 2020. Otherwise the agreement will not stand.

M/S/C (Woodrow/Brown) To approve the agreement with Salida Fire Protection District with the additional requirement the fire district provide proof of insurance with a minimum of \$1M liability limits and an insurance addendum is signed prior to January 1, 2020.

Vote: 5-0

**Motion Passed**

**Z. Agreement with Turlock City Fire Department for BLS First Response Service in Stanislaus County**

Chairman DeMartini stated this agreement will also need an addendum to delineate the insurance requirements of \$1M minimum. The provider is to provide proof of insurance by January 1, 2020. Otherwise the agreement will not stand.

Mr. Doyle said the City of Turlock provided insurance limits last night. The agreement is currently unsigned but is with the City Council.

M/S/C (Mills/Brown) To approve the agreement with Turlock City Fire Department with the additional requirement the fire department provide proof of insurance with a minimum of \$1M liability limits and an insurance addendum is signed prior to January 1, 2020.

Vote: 5-0

**Motion Passed**

**AA. Memorandum of Understanding with Stanislaus County Volunteer Fire Departments for Reimbursement by AMR**

Chairman DeMartini stated the County has the most heartburn with this MOU. It is completely unacceptable as written. Every district listed must provide insurance proof.

Mr. Doyle said not all of the departments listed have agreed to participate. He will develop specific addendums for each department

Chairman DeMartini said there must be a signed addendum for each department with \$1M minimum insurance liability by January 1, 2020. Otherwise they will be stricken from the agreement.

Supervisor Mills observed these insurance requirements in such a short time frame might not be feasible.

M/S/C (Brown/Woodrow) To approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Stanislaus County Volunteer Fire Departments with the additional requirement that each fire department provide proof of insurance with a minimum of \$1M liability limits and an insurance addendum for each department is signed prior to January 1, 2020.

Vote: 5-0

**Motion Passed**

**AB. Memorandum of Understanding with Newman Fire Department and West Stanislaus County Fire Protection District for Reimbursement by Westside Community Healthcare District**

Mr. Doyle explained this agreement is specific to certain BLS services performed in the Westside Community Healthcare District response area.

M/S/C (Woodrow/Brown) To approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Newman Fire Department and West Stanislaus County Fire Protection District with the additional requirement that each fire department provide proof of insurance with a minimum of \$1M liability limits and an insurance addendum for each department is signed prior to January 1, 2020.

Vote: 5-0

**Motion Passed**

**AC. FY 18/19 Financial Audit Report**

Ms. Watson presented the financial audit report prepared by Stroub Thompson Noble regarding the Agency's financial records for FY 2018/2019 and ending on June 30, 2019.

The report cited a balanced budget, fair representation of the Agency's financial activities, and no evidence of fraud or material misstatements. However, a deficiency was noted for lack of segregation of duties due to small staff size.

M/S/C (Woodrow/Brown) To approve the FY 2018/2019 financial audit report.

Vote: 5-0

**Motion Passed**

**AD. Agency and County Reports**

Alpine – No report.

Amador – No report.

Calaveras – There will be an RFP meeting next Thursday.

Mariposa – No report.

Stanislaus – No further report.

Agency –

- The EMS Critical Care Coordinator resigned.
- Two recruitments will be posted on 12/15/19.
- Stanislaus County:
  - The Agency is training Stanislaus County fire agencies on the new system implementation for January 1, 2020.
  - FirstWatch is on schedule.
  - Oak Valley Ambulance was given an opportunity to cure for non-compliance prior to breach of contract
- Amador County
  - Working with the Sheriff to implement FirstWatch
- Alpine County
  - As part of the HPP grant, the Agency formalized the DCF program as is after an evaluation of the current three facilities versus designating one facility for the entire county.
- Calaveras County
  - The Agency received one proposal from Ebbetts Pass Fire District for service in the East Zone
  - Nothing was received for service in the North and South zones.
  - The Agency will convene the executive level planning group to strategize next steps.

**AE. Next Scheduled Regular Meeting**

The next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 9:00 AM; Copperopolis Fire Station Training Room.

**AF. Adjournment**

Chairperson DeMartini adjourned the meeting at 10:26 AM.