

**Mountain-Valley
Emergency Medical Services Agency
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2021**

Location: Via Zoom
 Time: 9:00 AM
 Board Members Present: Gary Tofanelli (Chairperson) – Calaveras County; Jeff Brown (Vice-Chairperson) – Amador County; Terry Woodrow – Alpine County; Buck Condit – Stanislaus County
 Board Members Absent: Miles Menetrey – Mariposa County
 Guests: Richard Murdock; Brandon Zeledon; Barry Hickerson
 Staff: Lance Doyle – Executive Director; Dr. Greg Kann – Medical Director; Susan Watson – Executive Secretary / Financial Services Assistant

A. Call to Order

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

B. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Watson conducted a roll call of the JPA Board members and introduced the guests on the call.

C. Correspondence

Letter from the County of Alpine dated January 7, 2021 appointing Supervisor Terry Woodrow as the Board of Supervisors liaison to the Mountain-Valley EMS Agency. The alternate is Supervisor David Griffith.

D. Additions/Deletions, Corrections to Agenda

None.

M/S/C (Brown/Woodrow To approve the agenda.

Motion Passed 4-0-1

E. Public Forum

None

F. Approval of Consent Calendar

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

Motion Passed 4-0-1

G. Agreement with City of Patterson Fire Department

Mr. Doyle discussed the renewal contract with the City of Patterson Fire Department for First Responder Advanced Life Support services. It is a three year term that includes the addition of first responder services with Patterson District Ambulance as well as the first responder program that became effective in 2020 through the EMS system redesign in Stanislaus County. The Board was asked to approve the agreement and authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract.

M/S/C (Brown/Condit) To approve the agreement with the City of Patterson Fire Department and authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract.

Motion Passed 4-0-1

H. COVID-19 Response Update

Mr. Doyle reported the Agency continued to integrate within each member county as needed.

Last month a major focus was vaccination support. The EMS Authority issued a Local Optional Scope of Practice (LOSOP) for Paramedics and EMTs to give vaccinations. Over the last three weeks, the Agency conducted vaccination training classes of approximately 150 EMTs in Stanislaus County. Training in Amador County is being done through American Legion Ambulance. Calaveras County is finalizing a vaccination plan and the Agency may be involved for support. Mariposa County Public Health contacted the Agency last week requesting vaccination support as well. There is an online training program coordinated with the help of Stanislaus County.

The Agency's support staffing for the Stanislaus County EOC has been changed to assign two dedicated individuals and rotated the prior individual out of this support function. He served the EOC since March 2020 and will now focus on his EMS education responsibilities.

Throughout the region there have been significant staffing impacts among the ambulance providers and fire agencies. There has been a recent flurry of employee absence due to the side effects of the second vaccine dose. One Agency staff member had one day off for the same reason.

Supervisor Tofanelli noted that Sam Leach has replaced Chris Edgerly at Calaveras HHS.

Supervisor Condit asked how the vaccination classes are going regarding the schedule and attendance.

Mr. Doyle said there had been an overwhelming response to the initial class offerings and advertising. The last class for now was conducted last week as the County has enough vaccinators for the time being. More classes can be ramped up as needed.

Supervisor Condit asked if those trained EMTs could do vaccinations anywhere in the MVEMSA region.

Mr. Doyle replied the LOSOP is a statewide initiative from Dr. Duncan at the State EMS Authority so trained EMTs can cross county lines to do vaccinations.

I. CY 2019 EMS Report

Mr. Doyle presented highlights of the full report for CY 2019 provided in the meeting materials packet. He discussed elements of each of the eight major functions of the EMS Agency as drawn from the quarterly reports to the State EMS Authority and the approved annual Quality Improvement, Stroke, STEMI, and Trauma Plans. These highlights included:

- System Organization and Management
 - The Agency is proactive in offering education opportunities to the employees. The Quality Improvement Coordinator is currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in EMS Management via the Agency's education allowance benefit.
 - The Agency is in compliance with all of the member county agreements, the EMS Authority agreement and all of the provider contracts are current.
- Staffing and Training
 - The Agency performed five on-site audits of training programs
 - Seven existing Continuing Education providers were renewed and two new providers were approved.

- Numerous training activities were provided throughout the year to include Paramedic Orientation, MICN Courses, Narcan training, an Advanced Airway Symposium
- The Agency issued 1670 Continuing Education certificates and recertified 1200 EMTs and Paramedics.
- Communications
 - All FCC Licenses are current and continuously monitored
 - The latest Emergency Medical Dispatch protocols as approved by Dr. Kann have been implemented in the authorized dispatch centers. All of the counties except for Amador are on the computerized version. Work is in process to help Amador County move to the computerized version as well.
 - The Agency continues to work with each county to implement the FirstWatch interface to provide third party compliance monitoring and clinical monitoring. This work is in process in Mariposa County and conversations are underway for implementation in Amador County. Implementation is complete in Calaveras County and continues to be upgraded in Stanislaus County.
- Response and Transport
 - The Agency conducted two uncontested Requests for Proposal for ground ambulance service. One resulted in an uncontested award in Stanislaus County. The other resulted in an uncontested award for the East Zone in Calaveras County.
 - Subsequently, the Calaveras RFP was revised and reissued for the North and South Zones in 2020 which did result in a successful award.
 - There were some subtle but significant changes to the Calaveras EMS system in terms of response compliance monitoring and MDTs.
 - There was a complete system redesign in Stanislaus County with the help of County leadership.
- Facilities and Critical Care
 - All receiving centers are base hospitals throughout the region
 - There are two Trauma Centers, three STEMI centers and three Stroke Centers that service the region
 - In 2020 the Agency worked with Doctors Medical Center to be designated as a Comprehensive Stroke Center. This is the only such center between Bakersfield and Sacramento County.
 - The Agency is currently working with Doctors Medical Center to become a Level I Trauma Center as well.
 - All specialty centers bear current certifications as appropriate.
- Data Collection
 - Agency staff spent significant time working with FirstWatch to integrate the new contracts for the system redesign in Stanislaus County.
 - The Agency is compliant with all of the contractual data reporting requirements from the State EMS Authority to include Trauma Registry Data, Core Measures, CEMSIS/NEMSIS PCR data, and the Central Registry for certifications.
 - The Agency continues to work with FirstWatch for clinical oversight.
- Public Information and Education
 - The Agency has been active with the fire and ambulance providers throughout the region to conduct hands only CPR classes for schools, businesses, churches and community organizations. In 2019 just under 5,000 individuals were trained and there have been 17,000 people trained since the program's inception in 2015.
 - Dr. Kann conducted a week long Advanced Airway Symposium which will serve as a model moving forward for direct education from the Medical Director.

- Disaster Medical Response
 - In 2019 there were a significant number of fires supported by ambulance strike teams.
 - Preparation, training and drills were stepped up.
 - In the last year with COVID, disaster response has become a significant part of the Agency's day-to-day work.
 - The Agency works with the Hospital Preparedness Program grant in all five member counties to help with pre-plans and training.
 - The Agency continues to support the MHOAC program in cooperation with each member county's Health Officer.
 - The Agency continues to support our 24/7/365 EMS Duty Officer program throughout the region. There are two duty officers on call at any given time.

Dr. Kann reviewed several clinical initiatives to include:

- Community Paramedicine Pilot Project in coordination with AMR in Stanislaus County.
 - A number of paramedics who have attained Community Paramedicine status.
 - Psychiatric patients are taken directly to psychiatric facilities for care, bypassing the hospital Emergency Departments when medically appropriate.
 - The program has been moved out of the pilot designation
 - New legislation from Sacramento paves the way for the Agency to expand the program in an impactful way.
 - Just over 1500 patients were assessed in 2019 and of those 443 were deemed appropriate for transport directly to a psychiatric facility.
- CodeStat Analytics
 - Measures progress in care of patients who suffer an Out-of-Hospital cardiac arrest.
 - LUCAS devices are implemented for automatic CPR at 111 compressions per minute.
 - CPR is continuously maintained to avoid detrimental pauses in compressions.
 - A series of data-based graphs were presented to demonstrate trends, strengths and weaknesses
- Sepsis Project
 - Focuses on pre-hospital identification of patients with infections.
 - Sepsis is a leading cause of mortality nationally.
 - These efforts show a 50% reduction in time to first antibiotic upon arrival at the Emergency Department and directly relates to lives saved.
- Regional Trauma System
 - Two Level II Trauma Centers in Stanislaus County
 - Doctors Medical Center working toward designation as a Level I Trauma Center
 - 3100 patients were evaluated in 2019
 - There was a trial to use Ketamine in the pre hospital setting. Use of the medication is now widely available in paramedic protocols across the State.
 - Patients are evenly distributed between the two centers.
- Regional Stroke Program
 - Three designated primary stroke centers in Stanislaus County
 - In October 2020 Doctors Medical Center became a comprehensive stroke center and has additional tools for interventional neurologists to use in treating patients with stroke.
 - The Agency will be watching patient outcomes carefully as a measurement to expand current guidance and options for bringing patients into the comprehensive stroke center from other areas of the MVEMSA region.

- Regional STEMI Program
 - ST Elevation MI is a type of heart attack.
 - Three designated STEMI Receiving Centers in Stanislaus County saw just over 300 STEMI patients in 2019.
 - There is a robust quality assurance program in place with the member hospitals and the pre hospital transport agencies to make sure cardiac patients are receiving the best possible care.

Mr. Doyle recapped 2019 challenges to include:

- Two EMS System redesigns in Stanislaus and Calaveras Counties and the associated Requests for Proposals
- Provider Contracting
- Paramedic staffing which has become a bigger challenge during the pandemic.
- EMSA additional requirements to include Health Information Exchange. Oak Valley Hospital is interested in participating and potentially American Legion Ambulance; however this initiative has been put on the back burner by the State during the pandemic.
- Westside Ambulance successfully turned around their operations and performance from a breach of contract. The hospital district hired new management and established a new Board.

Mr. Doyle reported on the Mobile Simulation Lab which will be used to take field training to the fire agencies and ambulance providers. In the second week of March the lab will be used during the Modesto Fire Academy. Dr. Kann will be there at the beginning of that week. The Sim Lab will be demonstrated at the next in person meeting of the JPA Board.

Supervisor Condit plans to attend the Modesto Fire academy and observe the use of the simulation lab.

Supervisor Woodrow thanked Lance and Dr. Kann for the good report presentation.

Supervisor Tofanelli thanked Lance and Dr. Kann for the report and asked for a report back on the Sim Lab at the April meeting.

M/S/C (Woodrow/Brown) To approve the CY 2019 EMS Report
Motion Passed 4-0-1

J. Agency and County Reports

Alpine County – The County is getting the vaccine out. There are a lot of second homeowners who are signing up so there are more than what the population is recorded as. It would be nice to have a more consistent vaccine distribution.

Amador County – The County has been getting the COVID vaccines out as fast as possible. They have been using e-notification through the mass email system and appointments have been filling up fast.

Calaveras County – More vaccine supply is a common issue for all the counties. The Johnson and Johnson vaccine when it is available should help alleviate the problem.

Dr. Kann commented on the vaccine supply pipeline as well as the effectiveness of the Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson and Johnson vaccines. It is expected the Johnson and Johnson vaccine will be a game changer and help bring the pandemic to a close.

Stanislaus County – Supervisor Condit reported on the County’s mobile strike team to get vaccinations to the more rural and underserved areas of the County. He also thanked the Board for the warm welcome.

MVEMSA – Mr. Doyle reported the final draft of the ambulance provider agreement with American Legion Ambulance for the Calaveras North and South Zones has been reviewed with Alan McNany. That will allow work with Copperopolis Fire Protection District to develop their new contract as well. There is a good draft for the Mercy Ambulance agreement and we are moving ahead with FirstWatch integration.

Supervisor Tofanelli asked if the contract can come to the April 2021 JPA Board for approval and then start the new contract without having to wait for June 2021.

K. Next Scheduled Regular Meeting

The next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 9:00 AM; Location to be determined.

L. Adjournment

Chairperson Tofanelli adjourned the meeting at 10:07 AM.