

**Mountain-Valley  
Emergency Medical Services Agency  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
December 16, 2021**

Location: Via Zoom  
 Time: 10:00 AM  
 Board Members Present: Gary Tofanelli (Chairperson) – Calaveras County; Jeff Brown (Vice-Chairperson) – Amador County; Terry Woodrow – Alpine County; Miles Menetrey – Mariposa County  
 Board Member Absent: Buck Condit – Stanislaus County  
 Guests: Chief Richard Murdock – Stanislaus County Fire Warden; James – Ebbetts Pass Fire District; Deb Thrasher – Stanislaus County Health Services Agency; Jesse Figueroa – Mercy Medical Transport; Cindy Woolston - AMR; Mary Ann Lilly – Stanislaus County Health Services Agency; Jewel Warr – Stanislaus County CEO Office; Alan McNany – American Legion Ambulance; Michael Courtney – Westside Community Ambulance; Dr. Sergienko – Mariposa County Health Officer  
 Staff: Cindy Murdaugh – Executive Director; Susan Watson – Executive Secretary / Financial Services Assistant; Derek Cole – Agency Counsel; Amy Diaz – Front Office and Certifications; Brenda Freese – Certifications, Training and Data Registrar; Jim Whitworth – Quality Improvement/Trauma Coordinator; Tom Morton – Communications/Data Systems Coordinator; Marilyn Smith – Response and Transport Coordinator

**A. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM by Chairperson Tofanelli with a quorum of three members present.

**B. Welcome and Introductions**

Ms. Watson conducted a roll call of the JPA Board members. Chairperson Tofanelli called for self-introductions by staff and guests.

**C. Correspondence**

1. Stanislaus County Letter dated 12/8/21, Subject: Future models beginning July 1, 2022
2. Email to Chairman Tofanelli from the financial auditor requesting the Agency's future plans

*Let the record show Supervisor Jeff Brown joined the meeting at 10:08 AM.*

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

M/S/C (Woodrow/Menetrey) To approve the agenda as written.  
**Motion Passed 4-0-1**

**E. Public Forum**

None.

**F. Approval of Consent Calendar**

M/S/C (Brown/Woodrow) To approve the consent calendar.  
**Motion Passed 4-0-1**

**G. Amendment to Agreement with Mercy Medical Transport, Inc.**

Ms. Murdaugh presented the sixth amendment to the ambulance provider agreement with Mercy Medical Transport, Inc. for service in Mariposa County. The Agency has drafted a new ambulance provider agreement but there are some remaining concerns to address. The current agreement currently expires on December 31, 2021. This amendment would extend the term of the agreement an additional six months through June 30, 2022. It has been signed by Richard Roesch, President and CEO of Mercy Medical Transport. The Board was asked to approve the amendment and authorize the Agency Executive Director to sign the document.

Supervisor Menetrey asked what happens to this agreement after the change on July 1, 2022. Will the contract continue or become void?

Ms. Murdaugh deferred this question to Agency Counsel Derek Cole who said the Agency was looking at this issue and how to dispose of / handle all contracts after July 1, 2022. There was no definitive response today.

Chairperson Tofanelli said he expected contract discussions will take place in the next couple of JPA Board meetings.

**M/S/C (Menetrey/Brown) To approve the amendment to the agreement with Mercy Medical Transport, Inc.**

**Motion Passed 4-0-1**

**H. Planning Discussion**

Supervisor Menetrey reported he understood an item is being prepared for the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors to consider an invitation to join the MVEMSA JPA effective July 1, 2022. The date it will be heard is unknown.

Supervisor Woodrow said in the previous conversation with Supervisor Campbell she did not recall they saying they would consider this yet, but would later consider joining the JPA versus moving forward with their current model.

Chairperson Tofanelli shared Tuolumne County owns the ambulances and the ambulance provider has the medics and drivers. There may be further discussions in January/February 2022 on the benefits of Tuolumne County joining the JPA. He requested the MVEMSA JPA Board members be in attendance at the Tuolumne Board of Supervisors meeting to answer questions.

Supervisor Menetrey noted that Mercy Medical Transport likes the current Tuolumne County model and encourages that to be a new model moving forward.

Supervisor Brown had no report.

Dr. Sergienko said he is also the Interim Health Officer in Tuolumne County and would be glad to take up the issue with the County in conjunction with Supervisors Menetrey and Campbell and with direction from the JPA. The EMS staff is in favor of joining the JPA but needs assurances regarding the historical reasons for leaving the JPA 30 years ago. This could be discussed with Supervisor Campbell.

Chairperson Tofanelli said he continues to be asked the Agency's plans going forward and asked the JPA Board members present if they were interested in staying in the JPA. Alpine, Amador, Calaveras and Mariposa counties all answered affirmatively.

Supervisor Menetrey asked if there has to be a new MOU for the JPA or does the Agency just move forward as is without Stanislaus County. He cited the criteria for how to act, train, respond, certifications. Supervisor Woodrow injected protocols and policies as well.

Chairperson Tofanelli said those things would not change much.

Supervisor Menetrey asked if Derek Cole will stay on as Agency Counsel for the four remaining counties.

Mr. Cole said he intended to stay on but it is the JPA's call. For now, he is working hard on a seamless transition and to insure the JPA is a fully functioning Agency on July 1, 2022.

Chairperson Tofanelli and Supervisor Woodrow would like to meet individually with the employees to discuss moving forward and report back in January/February 2022.

Supervisor Menetrey noted there would need to be conversations with the ambulance providers moving forward.

Chairperson Tofanelli agreed and indicated Agency Counsel would be involved. The contracts in the mountain counties should stay the same and not be affected by the Stanislaus County withdrawal.

Mr. Cole agreed noting there may be some clean-up items approaching July 1, 2022. One member leaving the JPA does not change relationships with other member counties and providers.

Chairperson Tofanelli reported he and Supervisor Woodrow will meet with Agency Counsel on 12/28/21 on the following topics:

- Need to speak individually with employees
- Need to use the reserve
- Costs to move from Stanislaus County to Calaveras County

He is planning to bring a preliminary budget to the January JPA Board meeting for discussion.

James of Ebbetts Pass Fire District asked if there had been any feedback from El Dorado County.

Chairperson Tofanelli said there had been nothing yet, but the Caldor Fire caused quite a bit of interruption and now the County is in the clean-up phase. There may be a response in January 2022.

Supervisor Brown said there had been no answers to quite a few reach outs.

Chairperson Tofanelli said Supervisor Woodrow may be able to reach out to El Dorado County.

#### **I. Closed Session**

The Board entered into closed session at 10:43 AM.

#### **J. Results of Closed Session**

Open session resumed at 10:58 AM.

Mr. Cole reported the Board met to discuss one potential case for litigation. No reportable action was taken. Direction was given to legal counsel.

**K. Agency and County Reports**

Agency: Ms. Murdaugh reported:

- The Agency worked with Stanislaus County to complete implementation of the BLS tiered response.
- Alan McNany of American Legion Ambulance is expressing interest in implementing a similar BLS tiered response in Amador County. More discussions are needed.
- As discussed earlier, the Agency is working to finish up the contract with Mercy Medical Transport in Mariposa County.
- Ms. Watson reported the financial audit continues to be underway. The EMS Authority granted a 30 day extension to submit the final report to them by January 31, 2022 and the Agency hopes to bring that report to the January 2022 JPA Board meeting for review and approval. This is the last audit in the current five year engagement with Stroub, Thompson, Noble. The previous auditors, Fechter and Company, CPAs have expressed interest in bidding on the next audit engagement period. Chairperson Tofanelli requested the Agency obtain quotes for the next five year engagement from both the current and former auditing firms and bring those to the JPA Board for review.

Mariposa County: No report.

Calaveras County: No report.

Amador County: No report.

Alpine County: No report

**L. Next Scheduled Regular Meeting**

The Board set the next regular meeting for Monday, January 10, 2022 at 10:00 AM via Zoom.

**M. Adjournment**

Chairperson Tofanelli adjourned the meeting at 11:10 AM.