

**Mountain-Valley
Emergency Medical Services Agency
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
August 08, 2007**

Location: Saddle Creek Resort
Copperopolis, California
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Board Members Present: Louis Boitano – Amador County; Bill Claudino – Calaveras
County; Jim DeMartini – Stanislaus County
Board Members Absent: Brad Aborn – Mariposa County; Terry Woodrow – Alpine County
Guests: Al Lennox
Staff: Douglass Sisk – Deputy Director; Tina Casias – Executive
Secretary; Marilyn Smith – Response & Transport Coordinator

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Chairman Bill Claudino.

B. Welcome and Introductions

Everyone present at the meeting introduced themselves.

C. Correspondence

Douglass Sisk introduced one piece of correspondence requested by the Stanislaus County Emergency Medical Services Committee, and addressed to the Mountain Valley EMS Board of Directors. A copy of this letter was also sent to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors.

The letter emphasizes the overwhelming concern of the Stanislaus County Emergency Medical Services Committee members for hospital emergency room system saturation, and the current related problems, as well as, future problems resulting from this negative situation.

D. Additions/Deletions, Corrections to Agenda

M/S/C (Boitano, DeMartini) To accept agenda as submitted

Vote – Unanimous

E. Public Forum

There were no comments from the public.

F. Approval of Consent Calendar

M/S/C (Boitano, DeMartini) To approve consent calendar

Vote – Unanimous

G. State General Fund Augmentation

Douglass Sisk reported that the Mountain Valley EMS Agency, in cooperation with other Regional EMS Agencies, is continuing ongoing discussions with the State Department of Finance in an effort to secure \$1M in augmentation funding, and, if secured, would be dispersed proportionately among all EMS Agencies in the State.

After months of forwarding requested information and data to the State Department of Finance, talks seem to be stalled, and no decisions have been made. Thus far, there is no funding relief for FY2007/08.

Mr. Sisk also reported that the Regional EMS Agency Administrators are considering the hiring of a legislative analyst/lobbyist to lobby congress for additional EMS funding.

H. Stanislaus County Ambulance Provider Agreements

Before Marilyn Smith could begin to report on the Stanislaus County Ambulance Agreements, Supervisor DeMartini asked if Hughson Ambulance had paid their fees. Marilyn Smith responded by saying Hughson Ambulance is in the process of paying. At the owner's request, arrangements were made for the fees owed to be paid in installments. Mountain Valley EMS Agency has already received one installment, and another is due shortly.

Ms. Smith provided the Board members with some background information. She explained that on June 14, 2007, a public hearing was held, and the ambulance provider agreements were reviewed. The agreements were approved by the Stanislaus County Emergency Medical Services Committee, with certain revisions, at that same public hearing.

Ms. Smith explained that the Agency has not yet received signed copies of the agreements from each of the providers. Therefore, the Agency was unable to bring them before the Board for approval. At the time the agenda was sent out, she explained, it was thought all signed agreements would be received before the meeting date. This was not the case.

Douglass Sisk said the Agency had two requests. In case there was not a quorum for the next Board of Director's meeting in October, the first request was to allow the Executive Director to sign the agreements after the providers have signed, and with the exception of Hughson Ambulance. The second request, he said, was to authorize the Executive Director to sign the ambulance agreement with Hughson contingent on the payment up-to-date of all fines and fees due prior to the Executive Director signing the agreement.

M/S/C (Boitano/DeMartini) To authorize the Executive Director to sign all agreements

Vote: Unanimous

M/S/C (Boitano/DeMartini)To authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement with Hughson Ambulance once full payment has been received

Vote: Unanimous

I. State General Fund Contract

Douglass Sisk explained to the Board members that the FY2007/08 State General Fund Contract was a slightly less amount, however, the scope of work was exactly the same. He went on to explain that the difference in last year's contract amount, and this year's contract amount was due to Stanislaus County exceeding the 500,000 population cap the State used to calculate the EMS contracts. He also mentioned that currently the State does not have an approved budget for FY2008, and the contract cannot be signed until the budget is passed.

M/S/C (DeMartini/Boitano)To approve the State General Fund Contract

Vote: Unanimous

J. American Legion Ambulance Rate Increase

Al Lennox of American Legion Ambulance explained to the Board members that he is requesting an adjustment to current ambulance rates in Calaveras County per Section 14.2 of the current contract. Their current agreement allows for an annual adjustment that is approved by the Mountain Valley EMS Agency. American Legion Ambulance, he explained, is requesting a rate increase of 6.8% based on the Medicare allowable reimbursement rate.

M/S/C (Boitano/DeMartini)To authorize a rate increase by 6.8%

Vote: Unanimous

At 11:07 a.m. Chairman Bill Claudino called for a closed session as noted in Agenda Item # K, and also stated the Board would continue in closed session to discuss Agenda Item # L.

K. Closed Session Pursuant to 54954.5 of the Government Code: Regarding Threat to Public Services or Facilities

This document is exempt from public disclosure pursuant to Government Code 6254 aa (Public Records Act).

L. Executive Session (Government Code 54957, 54957.6)

The Board will conduct the annual performance, salary, and benefit evaluation of the Executive Director, and the Deputy Director.

At 11:22 a.m. the closed session was ended.

M. Results of Executive Session

Chairman Bill Claudino announced the results of the Executive Session as follows:
Executive Director: 2%-Cola & 3% Merit salary increase effective as of July 1, 2007
Deputy Director: 10%-salary increase, above current salary, effective July 1, 2007

N. Agency and County Reports

MVEMSA – Douglass Sisk reported that the Agency is continuing to monitor system saturation issues and data collection for all the counties.

Stanislaus County – Supervisor DeMartini feels the issues with the rural Fire Departments will come to forefront soon. A meeting with the Fire Chiefs indicated problems with lack of funding. Also, the volunteer firemen numbers have decreased 50%. First response by the Fire Department is fading, and it appears unless the ambulance providers begin to pay for this service, the Fire Departments will stop responding.

Amador County – Supervisor Louis Boitano reported that his County is also experiencing a decrease in available volunteer firemen. The County has attempted to acquire additional funding for the Fire Departments through legislation or bond issues on the ballot for County vote. Unfortunately, these issues did not receive enough votes to pass.

Calaveras County – Supervisor Bill Claudino reported that Mark Twain Hospital has received a lot of criticism in the past. People in the County did not have confidence in the Hospital Administration or personnel. Supervisor Claudino has met with Hospital personnel, and all parties will be embarking on a friendship campaign, such as free blood pressure checks, in order to instill public confidence.

O. Next Scheduled Meeting

The next scheduled meeting is October 10, 2007. The location is not known as yet.

P. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Bill Claudino at 11:40 a.m.