

**Mountain-Valley
Emergency Medical Services Agency
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2009**

Location: Copperopolis Fire Station 1
Copperopolis, California
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Board Members Present: Louis Boitano – Amador County; Gary Tofanelli – Calaveras County; Jim Allen – Mariposa County; Terry Woodrow – Alpine County
Board Members Absent: Jim DeMartini – Stanislaus County
Guests: Bill King, MD – Kaiser Modesto Hospital
Staff: Steve Andriese – Executive Director; Jim Worobe – Deputy Director; Marilyn Smith – Response and Transport Coordinator

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairperson Louis Boitano.

B. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed those present. Individual introductions were made.

C. Correspondence

Steve Andriese referred to correspondence received from the Calaveras County Clerk of the Board regarding the 2009 Board of Supervisors committee appointments. Supervisor Gary Tofanelli was appointed as the Board of Supervisors liaison to the Mountain Valley EMS Agency.

Steve Andriese referred to correspondence received from the Mariposa County Clerk of the Board regarding the 2009 Board of Supervisors committee appointments. Supervisor Jim Allen was appointed as the Board of Supervisors liaison to the Mountain Valley EMS Agency, and Supervisor Janet Bibby and Dr. Charles Mosher were assigned as alternates.

D. Additions/Deletions, Corrections to Agenda

M/S/C (Woodrow/Tofanelli) To approve agenda as submitted

Vote – Unanimous

E. Public Forum

There were no comments from the public.

F. Approval of Consent Calendar

M/S/C (Woodrow /Tofanelli) To approve consent calendar as presented

Vote – Unanimous

G. Update on CalStar Operations in Amador County

Marilyn Smith provided an update on the start of operations of CalStar Air Ambulance service in Amador County. Ms. Smith began by reminding the Board of discussions that took place at a meeting in Amador County in August in which CalStar representatives presented information that suggested that they would be able to begin service in Amador County in short order. Since that presentation, CalStar has encountered obstacles that have prevented them from providing service from the Westover Airport in Amador County. There have been issues with utilities and building ordinances. CalStar now plans to start service on April 1, 2009 from the Westover Airport. CalStar will be renting a house at the bottom of the hill from Cal Fire and will continue to work with the planning commission in Amador County to get their plans approved to place a module home that is designed to meet the architectural standards.

In preparation for the start of operations, Staff has met with the dispatch centers that would be affected by the proximity of this operation to provide them with contact and monitoring information.

Louis Boitano mentioned that mobile homes are not generally allowed in incorporated areas of the county, however variances have been granted.

Steve Andriese mentioned as a side note that at the federal level, through the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, opinions have been made in regards to local government regulating the operation of Air Ambulance Services. Debate has taken place based on the intent of the federal legislation that deregulated airlines. The Air Ambulance industry has taken the position that Air Ambulances are conveyances for hire and therefore protected under the federal legislation and exempt from local regulation.

H. Kaiser Hospital Receiving Facility Contract Extension

Marilyn Smith reminded the Board that at the August meeting a contract between the Mountain Valley EMS Agency and Kaiser Modesto Hospital, to serve as a receiving facility, was approved. Kaiser Modesto Hospital began operation on October 1, 2008 with the intention to become a Base Hospital by March 2009. Currently, Emanuel Medical Center has contracted to provide the Base Hospital functions for Kaiser Modesto Hospital. Kaiser Hospital is receiving ambulances from the field and is able to communicate with the field personnel; however they are not authorized to provide Base Hospital on-line medical control to the ambulance personnel. The current contract expires in April 2009. In order for Kaiser Modesto Hospital to meet the requirements of a Base Hospital it must be able to staff a MICN in the Emergency Department 24 hours a day. Currently, they are unable to meet this requirement due to the availability of MICNs at Kaiser. There are several nurses currently certified as MICNS, several currently enrolled in the program, and several scheduled to take the course this summer. The Board is being asked to approve an extension of the Receiving Hospital Contract with Kaiser Modesto Hospital until October 2009.

M/S/C (Woodrow /Allen) To approve the amendment to the contract between Mountain Valley EMS Agency and Kaiser Modesto Hospital to extend the expiration of the contract to October 2009

Vote – Unanimous

I. Update on State Funding

Mr. Andriese provided the Board with an update on the current status of State Funding. Unfortunately, as we all know, the State has still not agreed on a budget. Approximately one-third of the funding this agency receives comes from State funding. As stated at the last Board of Director's meeting, EMS had not been identified as being impacted by reductions in funding when the Governor's Office published its list of agencies that might be hit. Furthermore, State EMS Authority has not been advised that it had been considered for any further cuts. We continue to actively work on trying to get additional state augmentation. The reality is that we do not expect additional funding, but we are working diligently to try and prevent additional cuts.

J. Quality Improvement (QI) Coordinator Recruitment

By direction of the Board at the December 2008 meeting, Mr. Andriese was asked to provide costing information and a revised Job Description for the vacant QI position. Mr. Andriese presented the revised Job Description as well as detailed description of the impact to the current budget. Mr. Andriese recommended that the position be filled for the last three months of the fiscal year.

M/S/C (Woodrow /Allen) To approve the revised Job Description for the QI Coordinator and begin recruitment to fill the position.

Vote – Unanimous

K. FY 2008/09 Budget Revision

Steve Andriese began his report by explaining that Board members had before them some revisions to the current FY08/09 mid-year budget. The current budget was in blue, and approved by the Board in June 2008. The revised budget was in white with revisions shown in red.

The first change to the budget concerned the *CAD-to-CAD Special Project Grant Fund*. These funds have been previously approved by the Board and have been added to the budget under "Special Projects." Adjustments have been made to the "Salaries and Wages" and "Operating Expenses" to integrate this funding into the general budget. This is reflected as a net increase of \$40,000 in local revenue.

The second change to the budget is a revision to the "*Trauma Fees*" column due to:

- A reduction in the hours of the Trauma Nurse Coordinator.
- An increase in trauma related responsibilities by other staff members.
- An increase in the "Office Equipment/Maintenance line item to cover the software maintenance fee for the Trauma Registry, and
- Revisions to "Travel" and "Staff Training/Conference" line items to closer reflect anticipated needs for the remainder of the fiscal year.

There was also a correction of a \$48 error. This results in a \$48 reduction in Trauma Fees.

The third change to the budget is a reduction in hours for the Trauma Nurse Coordinator for quality improvement and facilities coordination functions, generating a savings of \$36,700. Of this amount, \$17,900 was moved to fund the QI Coordinator position of the final quarter of Fiscal Year 2008/2009. The remaining balance results in a net increase of

\$27,897 in local funds.

The fourth revision of \$5000 was moved from “Skills Testers” and the category of “Contractual Costs” to “Training and Textbooks” to cover the cost of training materials. There was no impact to the budget.

The last revision involved adjustments to the “Travel” Operating Expense line item based upon mid-year financial review.

These revisions resulted in a total net effect of + \$65,849.

M/S/C (Allen/Tofanelli) To approve revised budget

Vote: Unanimous

L. Presentation on California Disaster Medical Operations Manual (CDMOM)

Mr. Andriese provided a presentation on the CDMOM.

M. Agency and County Reports

Alpine County – Supervisor Terry Woodrow had nothing to report.

Amador County – Supervisor Louis Boitano reported that there was good news and bad news. The bad news first, there is no good news.

Calaveras County – Supervisor Gary Tofanelli had nothing to report.

Mariposa County – Supervisor Jim Allen had nothing to report

Agency – Mountain Valley EMS Agency just signed a new five year agreement with American Legion Ambulance in Amador County, ratified by the Board of Supervisors in December 2008. Mr. Andriese mentioned that Tina Casias’, the Executive Secretary, husband recently passed away. Louis Boitano asked Mr. Andriese to extend the sympathy of the Board to Ms. Casias.

N. Next Scheduled Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be, April 8, 2009. The meeting place has not yet been determined.

O. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Louis Boitano at 11:38 a.m.