

**CALAVERAS COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 15, 2007**

Location:	Sequoia Room, Cal Works Building San Andreas, California
Time:	6:00 p.m.
Committee Members Present:	Tom Mitchell, Jeanne Boyce, Mike Heffernan, Robin Bunch, Scott Kenley, Kirsten Anderson, Keith Andersen, Pieter Michels, and Clay Hawkins.
Committee Members Absent:	William Nuttall; There was no representative from Mark Twain Saint Josephs Hospital.
Guests:	Alan McNany, Brian Dickson, Dan Hendrycks, and Alice Raine
Staff:	Steve Andriese - Executive Director; Jim Worobe – Field Liaison

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Introductions of the committee members and staff were made.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted.

M/S/C (Boyce/Michels) to approve agenda as submitted.

Vote: Unanimous

3. Correspondence

Steve Andriese referred to a piece of e-Mail correspondence the Agency received from Mark Twain Saint Joseph's Hospital this afternoon advising that there would be no one from the hospital at this evening's meeting.

Mr. Andriese reported that, according to the Clerk's Office, Melissa Cuevas' appointment will fill the remaining portion of the term that is due to expire on June 30, 2007. The Agency requested that the Board of Supervisors consider appointing Ms. Cuevas for the next term as well.

Mr. Andriese also reported that there are three committee appointments that are due to expire June 30, 2007. He asked that applications be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for:

- District III – Michael Heffernan
- District IV – William Nuttall
- District V - Pieter Michaels

The Chair stated that he would make a note to talk to the Clerk, and then asked Mr. Michels if he was interested in serving another term. Mr. Michels answered in the affirmative.

4. Review and Approval of Minutes of December 21, 2006

The minutes were reviewed. Kirsten Anderson mentioned that her name was misspelled in item #12 and requested it be corrected. The Chair called for a motion to accept the minutes as amended.

M/S/C (Boyce/Heffernan,) to approve the minutes of December 21, 2006 minutes as amended.

Vote: 8 Ayes, Kenley abstaining because he was not present at the last meeting.

5. Public Comment Period

The Chair recognized Alice Raine, who expressed a concern that her past medical history, allergies, and current medications were not listed when she received her ambulance subscription ticket from American Legion Ambulance this year. Ms. Raine felt that this information was crucial in her circumstance, and that it should be in others as well. The Chair asked Staff for comment. Mr. Andriese stated that this topic was raised at the last meeting, and Mr. Lennox of American Legion Ambulance (ALA) stated he would look into this issue. Mr. Andriese also mentioned that there may be some HIPAA concerns to contend with. The Chair recognized Alan McNany from ALA who explained that along with the Calaveras County Commission on Aging, his organization was working on the Vial of Life program. Mr. McNany went on to explain how the program worked. .

Mr. Andriese provided a follow up to a concern expressed at the December 21, 2006 meeting during public comment by Ed Anderson. Mr. Anderson voiced a concern regarding response time in the Burson area and stated, “A Twenty minute response time to where I live is not acceptable. I enjoyed an eleven minute response time with the former provider”. Staff looked at response times for the year prior to ALA coming onboard. The mean response time to Burson at that point was 14.85 minutes. The mean response time in this past year has been 11.42 minutes. Accordingly, this is approximately a 3 minute improvement in response time.

6. EMSOC OAS Report

Alan McNany provided the committee with a report of the OAS meeting that took place on March 13, 2007. There was very little attendance at this meeting; ALA, EPFPD, and MVEMSA were the only agencies represented. The Sub-Committee discussed three agenda items:

- a. EMS Communications System. The Sub-Committee discussed the time frame for completion of repairs to the existing system, and installation of the new repeater. He deferred the rest of the discussion to Agenda Item #10.
- b. Current QI issues. The Sub-Committee recognized that many of the issues that had formerly been discussed were now being addressed in the QI Committee meeting, which is recognized as the proper forum for those issues.

EMSOC OAS Report (continued)

Jeanne Boyce asked if Dispatch was taking part in the QI Committee meetings. Jim Worobe responded that Dispatch was not present at the last QI meeting.

7. ALS Service Provider Update

American Legion Ambulance:

Mr. McNany reported on behalf of American Legion Ambulance Service. He reported that things were going well, and call volume was steadily increasing. One of the newer ambulances has been converted to four-wheel drive, and was placed in service just after Christmas in West Point. ALA now has a frequency sharing agreement with CDF to enhance their ability to communicate with the First Responder Agencies.

Ebbetts Pass Fire Protection District

Brian Dickson reported on behalf of Ebbetts Pass Fire Protection District. Chief Dickson apologized that he would not be able to have the Corn Beef and Cabbage dinner he promised at the last meeting at his new fire house. He gave a brief report on the activities of his department. EPFPD is in the process of moving from their old station into their new station.

Copperopolis Fire Protection District

There was no representative present from Copperopolis Fire Protection District.

Mr. Andriese provided follow up to direction provided at the December 21, 2006 meeting. According to the minutes, "Staff will also provide a copy of the plan submitted by ALA during the RFP process for cooperation between bidder and Copper Fire." Staff provided that document to the Committee and there were no questions or comments.

8. Revision to Copperopolis Fire's ALS FR Agreement

At the request of Copperopolis Fire Protection District, in an effort to maintain the same standard as the rest of the county, Staff presented a proposed amendment to CFPD's First Responder Agreement to include as Item 7.6 a requirement that all "ALS providers successfully meet the requirements for classes in Advanced Cardiac Life Support; and either Pediatric Emergencies for Prehospital Personnel or Pediatric Advanced Life Support; and either Basic Trauma Life Support or Prehospital Trauma Life Support in the following manner: 1) Complete these courses within twelve months of hire, or 2) Document prior completion of these courses, and prior continued recertification of these courses in compliance with course requirements , and 3) All ALS personnel on staff as of April 11, 2007, must meet these training requirements prior to April 11, 2008." This amendment will be going to the Board of Directors for approval.

9. Response Time Report

Mr. Andriese presented the committee with a report of the response time performance of American Legion Ambulance and Ebbetts Pass Fire Protection District Ambulance for the period of November and December 2006 and January 2007.

The report presented data that was collected from the Patient Care Records (PCRs). The reports reflect that:

- Ebbetts Pass Fire is in compliance all three months
- American Legion Ambulance was not in compliance for the North zone for the month of January. The 90%ile requirement is 20 minutes, and there 90%ile time for January was 21 minutes.

American Legion Ambulance has made substantive changes to their staffing and posting plan that were implemented in mid-January. The Agency will closely monitor the response times to insure that the changes implemented have a positive effect on their response time compliance.

Mr. Andriese pointed out that these reports were generated on small call volumes and emphasized that one or two outlying responses can throw the data off. He explained that a stipulation in the contract holds measurement to a 500 call basis. When the providers reach a point that there are 500 calls, staff will be better able to evaluate the performance.

Ms. Anderson asked if a meeting had taken place between Captain Andersen and Agency Staff concerning the data requirements from Dispatch. Captain Andersen responded by stating that he was not sure there was an agreement for a meeting. His concern was that the Agency understood the limitations his personnel were encountering with our requirements, and the abilities of the software to provide that data. Captain Andersen asked if the Agency had received appropriate data at this point.

Discussion continued that described what data the Agency was receiving, how the data was gathered, and difficulties with the current system. Captain Andersen stated that he would direct Debby to contact the Agency, and work on the issue. Afterward he wanted to have a conversation with Mr. Andriese to discuss where to go from there. In the interim, Mr. Andriese stated that he has directed Mr. Worobe to take whatever information he has, and try to compare it to individual calls as a method of validation of the PCR data.

10. Communications Report

Jim Worobe provided an update on the Communications Upgrade and Maintenance of the MedNet Radio equipment. As of March 8, 2007, the antennae maintenance on Fowler Peak was completed. According to anecdotal information, the reception is “a whole lot better out there from Fowler Peak.” The Bear Mountain repeater is installed, and the tower work is completed. There was an equipment malfunction that has been repaired.

Communications Report (Continued)

Now that Fowler Peak is at 100% operational efficiency, a decision will be made as to which repeater will be the primary dispatch system in Calaveras County, and the next phases will be implemented. The next step is coverage testing. Individuals from Copper Fire, ALA, Ebbetts Pass Fire, and Mountain-Valley will be conducting that test.

The Chair voiced budgetary concerns in relation to communications maintenance and repair. He asked if there were any estimates of how much maintenance, upgrade, and repair might be. Staff responded by stating that there is no current maintenance history available to address this question.

The Chair recognized Alice Raine who asked when the communications in Valley Springs will be tested. Ms. Raine gave a brief description of her concerns. Staff responded by stating that there is a direct line of site between the Valley Springs area, and the Bear Mountain Site. This is a reasonably good indication that communications will be improved. However, testing has not yet taken place. The intention is to perform some site coverage testing the week of March 19.

11. Fowler Peak Power Failure

Staff reported that on February 28, 2007, there was a power failure at Fowler Peak that took the MedNet off line for over 12 hours. At first, Staff was under the impression that the backup batteries had simply been used up, and since there is no generator back up for the MedNet, the systems were down for that reason. After some discussion with a representative from Delta Communications, Staff discovered that there is no battery backup on the system at all. Apparently, the batteries that had been originally installed had been removed and never replaced.

Clay Hawkins reported that the power failure was the result of a lighting strike. All equipment at the site had been off line for that period. The Sheriff's Office was aware of the situation, and was in the process of making the necessary repairs and replacing the batteries.

12. Local Quality Improvement Committee Report

Jim Worobe reported that the Quality Improvement Committee met in January and February. Attendance from the providers has been consistent. Dispatch was not present at the February meeting due to the representative being ill. The process has become the educational tool that it was intended to become. Mr. Worobe described the skill identifiers and focus indicators that were being tracked.

Mr. Michels asked if a truncated report could be provided to the Committee at the next meeting that would provide some information as to performance.

13. Calaveras County CHEMPACK Request and Deployment Policy

Mr. Andriese provided a follow up on the draft policy, Calaveras County CHEMPACK Request and Deployment Policy (938.10). The policy was sent out for 60-day public comment, and for referral to the Regional Advisory Committee. Mr. Andriese reported that the Regional Advisory Committee had determined that this policy was, in fact, a county specific policy, and that this Agency had received no comments. He then provided a brief description and history of the CHEMPACK asset, and answered questions from members of the Committee. The Chair suggested adding wording to the policy in section IV, A, 1 and V, A, 1 that describes “Intra-County Requests” as those originating from inside the county.

M/S/C (Kenley/Heffernan) Refer MVEMSA Policy 938.10, Calaveras County CHEMPACK Request and Deployment Policy to the Board of Directors for approval.

VOTE: Unanimous

14. EMSOC Member Comments

Keith Andersen wanted to recognize American Legion Ambulance for its assistance to the Calaveras County Sheriff’s Office in providing CPR and First Aid training.

Tom Mitchell announced that Calaveras County can now make public service announcements that will scroll across the bottom of the TV screen for ComCast subscribers. Efforts are underway to include this to Volcano and CalTel subscribers as well. Access has been provided to several individuals around the County with the stipulation that authorization be obtained from Captain Hawkins and OES prior to making the announcement.

Steve Andriese mentioned that elections should have taken place at this meeting and suggested that nominations and elections for Officers be agendaized for the next meeting.

15. Date and Location of Next Meeting(s)

The proposed date and location June 21, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the Board of Supervisor’s Chambers in San Andreas, California

16. Adjourn

M/S/C (Kenley/Boyce) to adjourn meeting

Vote - Unanimous