

**CALAVERAS COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 25, 2010**

Location: Board of Supervisor Chambers, 891 Mountain Ranch Rd,
San Andreas, California

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Robin Bunch, Michael Heffernan, Pieter Michels, Dave
Seawell, Shirley Ryan, Colleen Tracy, William Nuttall

Committee Members Absent: Scott Kenley, Clay Hawkins, Melissa Cuevas

Guests: Alan McNany, Claudette Langley, Steve Wilensky, Brian
Dickson, Keith Cantrell, Bill Wennhold, Steve Kovacs,
Don Young, Dan Hendrycks, Joe Piccinini, Brandon
Wilson, Yosh Toyota, Kevin Krantz, Lee Rhodes, Bryan
Santos, Robert Cozal, Al Lennox, Jim Marz, Ray Viscarra,
Nicole Vasquez, Larry Petite, Drake Moorehouse

Staff: Steve Andriese, Executive Director; Richard Murdock,
Interim Deputy Director; Marilyn Smith, Response and
Transport Coordinator

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., and asked that all meeting attendees introduce themselves.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (Tracy/Heffernan) To approve agenda as submitted.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Passed

3. Correspondence

Steve Andriese reported on correspondence received by Mountain-Valley EMS Agency and the Calaveras County Clerk of the Board from Bryan Santos in which he resigned his seat on the Calaveras County Emergency Medical Oversight Committee.

Mr. Andriese also reported on two additional pieces of correspondence received after the EMSOC agenda packet was sent out. This correspondence was received from Ebbetts Pass Fire District, and Supervisor Marita Callaway, and concerned the Ebbetts Pass Fire agreement with Mountain-Valley EMS. This will be addressed by Ebbetts Pass Fire personnel under agenda item # 7b.

4. Review and Approval of Minutes of July 16, 2009

(October 2009 EMSOC Meeting Cancelled due to No Quorum)

M/S/C (Tracy/Bunch) To approve minutes of July 16, 2009

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Passed

5. Review and Approval of Minutes of January 21, 2010

Mike Heffernan felt that a comment he had made during either the comment period or in discussion on an agenda item was not included in the minutes. He recalls making a statement on behalf of the East Zone tax payers, and felt it involved the contract and how to keep it on track, moved through the system, and approved.

Steve Andriese stated that the tapes would be reviewed, and the remarks included in the minutes.

M/S/C (Tracy/Seawell)To approve the minutes with clarification/amendments to the Public Comment Summary

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Passed

6. Public Comment Period

Chairman Michels reminded the public that only items not on the agenda may be discussed during the public comment period.

Drake Moorehouse, a concerned Calaveras County paramedic, who also lives in Calaveras County, expressed his disappointment in what took place at the previous meeting in January. He prepared a statement that he wanted to read.

He stated that he was ready to submit his resignation as a paramedic in Calaveras County if all the organizations seated at the meeting could prove that they have been 100% compliant within their individual organizations.

He stated that he has had a 12 year career, 6½ of which has been in Calaveras County. He has worked for both Valley Springs Ambulance and San Andreas Ambulance. He has witnessed first hand discrepancies in call times, patient care, and managerial indiscretions. He has also been involved with training, advocating, and leading by example for what is right, fair, and equitable for all.

He also stated that as a paramedic and resident of Calaveras County, he was tired of the continual bickering and stone throwing that has gone on for the past five or six years. He stated how it was time to be proactive, not reactive.

7. Renewal of the Exclusive Ambulance Agreements

a. Review of Public Comments and Staff Recommendations

Steve Andriese reported that at the last meeting on January 21, 2010, a public hearing was

held. After the original negotiated agreements were completed, they were released to the public. There were comments and suggestions given at the meeting, and the public was given the opportunity to submit their comments in writing.

Also at the January 21st meeting, Agency staff presented a performance evaluation of both Ebbetts Pass Fire District and American Legion Ambulance for the past 4 ½ years of their contract. Mountain-Valley EMS Agency has found both ambulance companies to be exemplary providers of service. There were a few minor issues that were presented, dealt with quickly once identified, and were corrected in a professional manner.

The Agency's recommendation was to renew the contracts. At this point, Agency staff were looking at verbiage within the contracts to see if there were any additional changes that needed to be made.

Mr. Andriese referred to the public comment summary in the agenda packet. He went through each comment or suggestion individually, and provided an explanation and an Agency recommendation. There was discussion by the Committee on each one as to whether they were in agreement or disagreement with the Agency, or other suggestions were made. Depending on the item, language in each of the contracts remained the same or was changed.

b. Response from Providers

Al Lennox of American Legion Ambulance and Bryan Santos of Ebbetts Pass Fire District responded by providing the Committee with a basic review of their operations.

Bryan Santos referred to the letters received by Mountain-Valley EMS from Ebbetts Pass Fire District, and Supervisor Marita Callaway requesting that approval of the Ebbetts Pass Fire District contract not be delayed.

c. EMSOC Discussion

Mr. Andriese concluded that, for the purposes of clarification, an agreement had been met that all changes to the contracts were agreed upon, up to the point of the contractual rates. Discussion continued concerning rate increases-namely ALA's desire to increase their rates to a flat fee schedule.

Mr. Andriese reminded EMSOC members that the current contractual terms stated that the EMS Agency could approve provider rate increases up to a certain amount. Beyond that, any rate increases would have to be approved by the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors. He emphasized that the EMS Agency approval was a staff approval, not a Board of Supervisors approval.

Mr. Andriese suggested a possible compromise. He suggested that the contract could state that increases up to a 'certain percentage' could be approved by the EMS Agency based on the expectation that provider costs increase at a certain level annually. Any requested increase beyond that level would need to go before the Board of Supervisors.

d. Finalization of EMSOC Recommendations to the EMS Board

Chairman Michels summed up the Committees thoughts as follows: To pursue a tiered approval process for rate increases with the three tiers being, (1) Autonomy, in which the provider can set their rate increases with EMS Agency staff approval; (2) Approval of the EMS Agency Board of Directors; and, (3) The County Board of Supervisors would approve and set tiers according to a certain pre-established formula. From this statement, the following motions were derived:

M/S/C (Heffernan/Tracy) To capture and approve all the agreed upon changes up to the rates section of the contract.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion passed

M/S/C (Tracy/Bunch) The specific section of the contract that governs the approval of rates be rewritten to include a 3-tiered rate approval process; The First Tier being the ability of the provider to increase their rates without review and approval, within a specified limit, to be determined or recommended by EMS Agency staff; The Second Level (Second Tier) to be determined, also in terms of the parameters, in requiring EMS Agency Board approval; The Third Level (Third Tier) within specified parameters to be subject to the review and approval by the local Board of Supervisors. Also there is an understanding of involvement by the provider in establishing the levels of approval as those factors to create the triggers would be developed jointly between the EMS Agency and the provider.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Passed

8. Nominations and Elections of the Chair and Vice-Chair

The Committee nominated Pieter Michels for the committee chairman, and Robin Bunch for the committee vice-chairman.

M/S/C (Tracy/Bunch) To elect Pieter Michels as the committee chairman

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Passed

M/S/C (Tracy/Heffernan) To elect Robin Bunch as the committee vice-chairman.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Passed

9. **EMSOC Member Comments**

Committee member Colleen Tracy asked if it was known that the EMSOC was trying to schedule a presentation before the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors. The EMSOC will make the presentation along with staff from MVEMSA. If a March 16th date was decided upon, she asked if MVEMSA staff would be ready with the materials needed to make the presentation.

Steve Andriese stated that Agency staff would have the agreements ready with the identified changes, in legislative format, from the current to the proposed. However, he was not sure how much of a presentation was required.

Colleen Tracy stated that the EMSOC's recommendation to the JPA Board will be to approve the proposed agreements with the revisions. The EMSOC has the same responsibility to the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors. Because of this, she felt the presentation should consist of a review of the process, and a synopsis as to what the EMSOC and the Agency have accomplished over the past several weeks. She also felt that they might be interested in some information concerning performance. The EMSOC's chair would have the responsibility of making the actual recommendation for approval of the agreements.

The committee decided on March 23, 2010 as the date to go before the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors.

10. **Date and Location of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on April 15, 2010 in the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors Chambers.

11. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Michels at 8:50 p.m.