

**Stanislaus County
Emergency Medical Services Committee
November 20, 2003**

Location: West Modesto Community Center
401 Paradise Road
Modesto, California

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Graham Pierce; Kathy Kohrman; Paul Baxter; Gary Hinshaw; Steve Pedrazzi; Bob Wikoff; Linda Sawdey

Committee Members Absent: Steve Kyte; Michael Rossini, M.D.; John Cremin

Guests: Chuck Coelho; Fred Hawkins; Cindy Murdaugh; Cindy Woolston; Ray Leverett; Steve Anderson

Staff: Steve Andriese, Executive Director; Rick Jones, Field Liaison/Transportation Coordinator; Connie Mathewson, Executive Secretary

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Linda Sawdey, Chairperson, and introductions were made.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda

3. Review and Approval of Minutes

M/S/C (Pierce/Baxter) To approve today's agenda, and the minutes of the August 14, 2003, meeting, as presented.

Vote: Ayes: five
Abstain: one (Wikoff)

4. Public Comment Period - No comments.

Mr. Andriese reported that the Agency received notification from the Stanislaus County Clerk's office that four of the EMSC positions were expiring December 31. All have agreed to a second term, and their names have been submitted to the Board of Supervisors for reappointment.

5. System Status Committee Report

Rick Jones commented on the function of the Committee, stating that they not only deal with system status issues, but they also address other issues that may arise. He gave some examples, and noted that at their next meeting they will discuss a provider's request to modify the posting plan.

Ray Leverett reported that the User's group discussed having common radio frequencies amongst all providers. Chief Hinshaw reported that the fire service is working on a plan to dispatch all fire agencies on one dispatch channel.

Mr. Andriese commented that the System Status Committee is successfully fulfilling its function of providing coordination between the providers.

Let the record show that Steve Pedrazzi was present at 2:10 p.m.

6. Ambulance Response Time Compliance

Rick Jones reported on the EMSC's request at their last meeting that he explore alternative ways to collect census data used to figure grids, without waiting for the next census. He contacted StanCOG and they have assured him that they are working on a way to use GIS to track population density. It is estimated that the projections will be available early next year.

Mr. Jones referred the Committee to his handout memo and attached charts, which showed AMR response time compliance (based on a statistically significant figure of at least 500 calls) in Zones 1, 3, and 8 for the months of July and August. He stated that September and October compliance is very similar.

Cindy Woolston distributed a handout and explained the changes AMR has made to their posting plan in an attempt to meet the challenges in Zone 3 and Zone 1-Blue. The new plan went into effect on November 9 and seems to be working well.

Mr. Pierce asked that the Committee be provided response time data for all zones going back one year. Staff agreed to do so.

7. Update on Status of 911 JPA/EMS Dispatch Consolidation

Mr. Andriese stated that no one from the Dispatch JPA was able to attend today's meeting. A meeting regarding moving EMS Dispatch into the consolidated center was held in September. All potential participants were invited. John Emerson from the County Administrator's office chaired the meeting. Discussion included the potential of combining CAD systems due to new technology. The role of EMS Dispatch was clarified. The Agency offered to survey ambulance providers to identify their dispatch needs, and AMR dispatch to identify what resources they have, e.g., hardware, software, staffing, etc. In addition, the Agency developed an internal survey to identify state regulations, EMD standards and guidelines, and Agency data needs. The survey is currently being reviewed by the JPA.

Chief Hinshaw reported that Jeanne Hardin has resigned effective January 3, 2004.

This topic will remain as an EMSC agenda item for future meetings.

8. Update on Trauma System Implementation

Mr. Andriese briefly reviewed the trauma planning process which culminated in an approved Trauma Plan and an RFP for the designation of two Level II trauma centers. In addition the following has been accomplished:

- Proposals from DMC and MMC were received, and the site visits were performed. The site team recommended designation of both facilities, with stipulations.
- The RFPs for Level III and Level IV centers went out. The Agency has received some proposals, and site visits are being planned.
- The field personnel are currently being trained on the changes in the protocols and how the system will be affected once the trauma system is implemented.
- The designation of the Level II centers will go before the EMS Board on December 17.
- The Trauma Registry Data Collection system for all the hospitals in the region is in process. The target date for the installation of the software is December.
- Robbie Faford, RN, has been hired as the Agency Trauma Coordinator.
- February 1 is the target implementation date for Level II centers. Level IIIs and IVs will soon follow.

9. Discussion of *USA Today* Article Regarding the EMS System in the U.S.

Mr. Pierce stated that he would like representatives from the EMSC to visit one or two of the cities mentioned in the article and come back with recommendations for moving our system forward. Chief Hinshaw agreed to work with Mr. Pierce to organize a trip. Anyone interested should contact them.

In reviewing the three major reasons cited in the article that emergency services in most U.S. cities are saving so few people in life-or-death situations, Mr. Andriese noted that a fourth bullet point should be added: Lack of state standardization of indicators and definitions for what is a good system. He gave an overview of a three-year process the State went through in developing a standardized data set for the high mortality incidents within the state. The grant funding for that project has ended. It is hoped that the state funding cuts won't force the State EMS Authority to delay the completion of the project.

10. Date and Location of Next Meeting

Following discussion regarding agenda items for the next meeting, it was decided to meet February 26 at 2:00 p.m. Location to be announced.

The Committee agreed to receive the agenda packet via e-mail. Paul Baxter asked that he receive a hard copy in the mail.

11. Adjourn - The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.