

**Stanislaus County
Emergency Medical Services Committee
June 08, 2006
Minutes**

Location: SR911 Dispatch Center
3705 Oakdale Road
Modesto, California

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Bob Wikoff, John Cremin, Thomas Burns, Gary Hinshaw, George Britton, Laura Shouse-List, Paul Baxter, Mary Ann Lee

Committee Members Absent: Michael Rossini, Cleve Morris

Guests: Cindy Woolston, Steve Anderson, Mike Skinner, Ray Leverett, Tom Brennan, Chuck Coelho, Bryan Hunt, Barry Hurd, Jared Bagwell, Dennis DeVore

Staff: Steve Andriese – Executive Director, Tina Casias – Executive Secretary

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Paul Baxter, Chairperson, and the committee members introduced themselves.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda

Steve Andriese of the Mountain Valley EMS Agency informed the committee of the passing of Marty Johnson, a former registered nurse, who started the paramedic program in Stanislaus County in 1973.

M/S/C (Britton/Wikoff) To approve the agenda as presented.

Vote: Unanimous

3. Correspondence

Steve Andriese of the Mountain-Valley EMS Agency received a letter from the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors appointing Mary Ann Lee of the Stanislaus County Health Services Agency to the Stanislaus County Emergency Medical Services Committee.

4. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

5. Approval of Consent Calendar

M/S/C (Wikoff/Hinshaw) To approve the consent calendar as presented.

Vote: Unanimous

6. Report from System Status Committee Members

Cindy Woolston reported on the new LifeCom Dispatch Center which opened on April 1st. As of May 1st, San Joaquin County was brought into the Center, and LifeCom expects to bring in some rural fire departments from San Joaquin by mid August. The Dispatch Center is still in the process of hiring personnel.

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7. Future Areas of Growth and the Impact on EMS

Steve Andriese reported of the Agency's efforts in contacting LAFCO to request they make a presentation to the committee identifying those areas of increase in population density, and its impact on the EMS system. He also stated how after being contacted LAFCO declined the invitation explaining that their office deals strictly in county borders, not population.

Member George Britton suggested the Agency contact Ron Freitas, of the Stanislaus County Community Planning Office, and invite him to speak on the topic at the next meeting.

8. Patterson Ambulance Response Time Request

Steve Andriese reported to the Committee on a letter the Agency received from Barry Hurd of Patterson District Ambulance. The letter, he explained, requested the utilization of his supervisor vehicle as an ALS response vehicle, and, in addition, authorization to 'stop the clock' in the same way the committee agreed to let Westside Ambulance operate. The Agency recommended that the request be granted.

Committee members expressed concern that, if granted, they could be setting a trend which could downgrade EMS services in the County. They also expressed concern that this may violate contractual agreements, and was assured by Steve Andriese that this was not the case.

After a lengthy discussion, it was suggested that the Committee could grant conditional approval for a specific length of time, and by monitoring the effectiveness and number of 'single staff vehicle' responses through periodic reports.

M/S/C (Wikoff/Cremin) To approve the request as submitted, including Westside Ambulance, and reviewing the number of responses on a 12 month basis

Vote: Unanimous

9. Ambulance Response Time Compliance Report – 2005

Steve Andriese explained that at the last EMSC meeting, three areas within the County were identified as non-compliant. Those were the Oak-Valley Zone, AMR Blue Zone, and Ceres Metro/Urban Zone.

Referring to a map provided to the committee members, Steve Andriese identified each zone, and the providers responsible for each zone.

Steve Andriese referred to some drill down reports that, at the last meeting, the Agency had agreed to provide. These reports, he explained, would show exactly where the problems are, and if, at this point, they are corrected. A copy of these reports was provided to the committee members.

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Steve Andriese agreed to provide updates, as requested, at the next EMSC meeting for metro/urban areas of Ceres zone (AMR), Blue zone (AMR), and Oak Valley zone.

10. EMSC Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors

Steve Andriese gave an overview of the draft copy of the document entitled “EMSC Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors”, which was in the committee packet, and asked for approval. Once approved, the document will be sent to the Board of Supervisors.

M/S/C (Britton/Wikoff) To approve report and authorize chair to sign document

Vote: Unanimous

11. EMSC Planning/Discussion

Steve Andriese addressed Item A, the first of two items to be discussed at this meeting. He felt Item A – Improving Interaction between the EMSC and the County Board of Supervisors needed to be addressed by both sides. The EMSC Annual Report was a first step, but he felt more work was needed to make sure the lines of communication were open between both bodies.

There was some discussion of Item B – Improving interaction between the EMSC and Provider/EMS Personnel, in which a suggestion was made to permanently add the EMSC agenda to the agenda for the System Status Committee meeting. This would enable EMS personnel to provide comments to any of the EMSC agenda items, and these comments would be reported by the System Status Committee to the EMSC Committee.

M/S/C (Baxter/Hinshaw) To amend EMSC Agenda with EPC and System Status reporting placed on agenda on permanent basis, and inform each committee of our request

Vote: Unanimous

12. EMS Dispatch Center Update

Reporting for SR911, Gary Hinshaw explained that the previous RFP for CAD installations and system upgrades had been cancelled, and a new RFP was due out in approximately one week.

Chairperson Paul Baxter asked if the language of the new RFP would reflect a requirement for system coordination of the SR911 Dispatch Center and the LifeCom Dispatch Center. Gary Hinshaw stated that the interface capabilities had been added to the RFP. Committee members requested a copy of the RFP be sent to Steve Andriese of the Mountain Valley EMS Agency by Gary Hinshaw.

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Concern over possible dispatch breakdowns in the EMS system, one member cited a situation in which fire dispatching was delayed, causing the ambulance to arrive well ahead of fire. After some discussion on the differences in dispatch center unusual occurrence reporting, George Britton suggested that SR911, LifeCom, and Mountain Valley EMS Agency be invited to give a presentation on their unusual occurrence procedures and processes. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

13. Date and Location of Next Meeting

The next meeting date will be September 14th, 2006. The location is yet to be determined.

14. Adjourn

Chairman Paul Baxter adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m., 'In Memory of Marty Johnson'.