

**Stanislaus County  
Emergency Medical Services Committee  
January 6, 2005**

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Location: Stanislaus Regional 9-1-1 Dispatch Center Logistics Room  
3705 Oakdale Road  
Modesto, California

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Paul Baxter, Gary Hinshaw, John Cremin, Cleve Morris, Bob Wikoff, Michael Rossini, M.D.; Margaret Szczepaniak

Committee Members Absent: Steve Pedrazzi

Guests: Cindy Woolston, Tom Brennan, Chief Miguel, Ray Leverett, Dean Wright, Mike Skinner, Laura Shouse-List, Paul Angelo, Rod Brouhard, Melanie Martinez, Arnold Blagg, Steve Anderson, Kathy Neal, Anita Schlenker, Chuck Coelho, Phil Balli, Frank Erdman, Paul Stein, Chief Miguel, Kathie Nielson, John Friel

Staff: Steve Andriese - Executive Director, Rick Jones - Response & Transport Coordinator, Pat Murphy - Stanislaus County Field Liaison, Connie Mathewson - Executive Secretary

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### **Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. by Paul Baxter, Chairman, and introductions were made.

### **Review and Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Baxter requested that the Agenda be amended to delete Item 8, *Oak Valley (Zone 4) Ambulance Exclusivity Challenge*. Mr. Crowder asked that the item be withdrawn.

M/S/C (Kyte/Kohrman) To approve Agenda Items 1 through 10, deleting Item 8.

**Vote:** Unanimous

### **Correspondence**

Mr. Andriese reported that the Agency had received a letter from the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors appointing Margaret Szczepaniak to the EMSC, replacing Kathy Kohrman.

**Public Comment Period** – No comments.

### **Approval of Consent Calendar**

Chairman Baxter stated that the Consent Calendar consisted of the minutes of October 21, 2004, System Status Committee Report, Air Ambulance Status Report, and Emergency Department System Saturation Surge Capacity Report. He asked if anyone wanted to discuss any item on the Consent Calendar.

Regarding the Air Ambulance Status Report item, Frank Erdman reported that on February 1, 2005, Medi-Flight will become a part of Air Methods. This affiliation will enable the Medi-Flight program to grow, as Air Methods is the largest provider of helicopter air ambulance services in the world.

Medi-Flight employees transitioning to the new company will remain the same, and Mr. Erdman will continue as Program Manager. Air Methods will be contracting with Memorial Hospital to provide helicopter dispatch services.

M/S/C (Rossini/Szczepaniak) To approve the consent calendar as presented.

**Vote:** Unanimous

### **Update on Status of 911 JPA/EMS Dispatch Consolidation**

Mr. Andriese reported that at the last meeting, the Committee asked the Agency staff and AMR Communications to review the 9-1-1 JPA Dispatch CAD system RFP, and submit a list of the specifications necessary for EMS dispatch to the JPA for possible inclusion as an addendum to the RFP. In addition, they asked that there be EMS administrative and technical representatives on the proposal review committee.

Mr. Andriese stated that AMR Dispatch and EMS staff reviewed the RFP and determined that there were no EMS specifications in the document. He stated that after meeting with Joyce Enberg and the providers, it became clear that an amended RFP was not a viable option considering the timelines established by police and fire. The RFP was released. The issue was discussed at the December 21<sup>st</sup> Dispatch JPA meeting, and it was clear that the JPA Board is still interested in consolidating with EMS dispatch in the future. However, there are potential problems associated with the absence of EMS specs in the original RFP.

Staff recommends looking at the option of maintaining a separate dispatch center with an off-site, virtual integration of the dispatch centers by linking the CADS. Once the proposals are in, staff recommends that they work with Stanislaus Regional 911 to put together a task force for the EMSC to approve at their next meeting. This task force would review the issue with all of the affected communities, and bring their findings back to the EMSC. He noted that there are concerns regarding the issues of whether EMS would have a place on the governance board; what the cost would be to the ambulance service providers; and whether the link would be virtual or in-house.

In response to a question regarding the RFP approval process and implementation date, Paul Stein reported that the Gardner Group will do the initial screening and provide information to the technical committees, and vendor presentations will be made. A final decision is scheduled to be made in April, with a projected implementation date of April 2006. Chief Miguel stated that the time line is correct, as long as funding is acquired.

Chairman Baxter stated that it was the EMSC's intent not to lose sight of the long-term objective to maintain a communication link for the EMS system. Chief Hinshaw added that the newer CAD designs allow for the purchase of additional packages that could address some of the EMS issues. Mr. Stein concurred.

M/S/C (Wikoff/Hinshaw) To direct staff to work with Mr. Stein to assemble a task force to be approved by the EMSC at their next meeting, and to come up with a plan for funding the planning of EMS dispatch.

**Vote:** Unanimous

### **AMR & Oak Valley Response Compliance Report**

Mr. Andriese stated that two areas of concern emanated from the response time compliance reports presented to the Committee at prior meetings: the AMR Blue Zone; and Oak Valley.

Mr. Jones reminded the Committee that it is charged with determining whether the ambulance providers are following the System Status Plan.

Cindy Woolston, AMR Operations Director, presented a handout consisting of maps and data regarding compliance history. She discussed the challenges inherent in the two Zone I sub-areas (Blue and Green) e.g., the fact that the hospitals, calls, and population are centralized, making it difficult to properly serve the peripheral areas without drastic posting changes and the costly addition of unit hours.

Ms. Woolston proposed that they add a 12-hour car, reconfigure their posting locations with emphasis on the Blue Zone, and negotiate with Modesto Fire to have their ALS engine(s) stop the clock in key areas of Zone 1.

After discussion regarding the challenges and possible solutions, the Committee asked Ms. Woolston to present to them at their next meeting, different options for making response time compliance.

Ray Leverett, Manager of Oak Valley Ambulance, stated that the problem in the Oak Valley zone is response time compliance between the areas of Oakdale and Riverbank. The solution has been to add a 12-hour unit in Oakdale to handle all transfers. Since that addition, they have had no problem meeting the 90% response time.

The Committee asked Mr. Leverett to present to them at their next meeting, statistical data showing response time compliance.

**Date and Location of Next Meeting** – March 24, 9 a.m., Dispatch Center Logistics Room.

### **Adjournment:**

M/S/C (Hinshaw/Szczepaniak) To adjourn the meeting.

**Vote:** Unanimous