

**Stanislaus County
Emergency Medical Services Committee
August 12, 2004**

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

Time: 2:00 p.m.

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

Committee Members Absent: Steve Kyte, Steve Pedrazzi, Graham Pierce

Guests: Chuck Coelho; Steve Anderson; Mike Passalacqua; Cindy Murdaugh; Mike Skinner, Ray Leverett, John Walker, M.D., Margo Arnold, Dale Skiles, Tammy Barindelli, Wayne Staylon; Deborah Espinoza, Jim Miguel

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

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Paul Baxter, Chairperson, and introductions were made.

Review and Approval of Agenda

Ms. Kohrman requested that Item 13, entitled "Update on Emergency Department System Saturation/Surge Capacity," be moved to the top of the agenda, to accommodate Dr. Walker's schedule.

Mr. Baxter suggested that the item be heard after Public Comment.

M/S/C (Wikoff/Rossini) To approve the agenda as amended.

Vote: Unanimous

Correspondence

Mr. Andriese read a copy of a letter to Chairman Caruso, Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors, from Linda Sawdey, announcing her retirement from Blue Cross of California, and her resignation from the EMSC, effective August 1, 2004.

The Committee directed staff to send her a letter of appreciation on behalf of the EMSC, and to contact the Board of Supervisors to request that she be sent a certificate of recognition.

Review and Approval of Minutes

M/S/C (Morris/ Hinshaw) To approve the minutes of the June 24, 2004 meeting as presented.

Vote: Ayes 6 Abstain 1 (Wikoff)

Public Comment Period - No public comment

Update on Emergency Department System Saturation/Surge Capacity

(Taken out of order.)

Dr. Walker acknowledged that his time has been consumed by the West Nile Virus issue, so he did not have detailed information for the Committee. He reported that he did speak with Steve Andriese regarding what system saturation data is available from the EMS Agency. In addition, Dr. Rosalind Mitchell, the Mountain-Valley EMS Medical Director, has been identified as the key person to give a perspective on system saturation.

On the subject of the one-day planning meeting to be facilitated by the County CEO, Dr. Walker reported that there needs to be a data-driven reason to justify having that meeting. Meanwhile, Public Health has a working group in place to focus on the issues of surge capacity.

Dr. Walker explained the “Active Surveillance Project,” and presented the Committee with a handout showing three years of retrospective data on outpatient visits through the Health Services Agency clinics where there was a flu diagnosis. He stated that Kathy Kohrman would keep the EMSC updated as more information becomes available.

Report on the Status of the Kaiser Hospital Project

John Cremin responded on behalf of Kaiser to the question posed at the last EMSC meeting regarding whether or not Kaiser would accept non-Kaiser patients in their ER when their Modesto hospital opens. He stated that Kaiser, as a hospital, will take all patients including non-Kaiser members, as an intake through the ED, subject to admit and stabilize, and transport to a different hospital as needed.

Mr. Cremin also reported that the Kaiser Hospital project is moving forward, and the expectation is that they will probably break ground in September. Part of the first phase will be an auxiliary hospital wing which will house an outpatient ambulatory surgery center and some administrative services. The second phase will be a major medical center that will house 120 to 160 doctors, the hospital, and a utility plant. The second phase will not commence until the completion of the \$9 million in surface street improvements.

Update on Status of 911 JPA/EMS Dispatch Consolidation

Wayne Staylon, representing Stanislaus Region 911 Dispatch, presented a handout which outlined the current consolidation status. He stated that they are working with the Gartner Group on the RFP document, and the final draft is scheduled to be completed at the end of the month.

During discussion regarding funding for the purchase of the CAD, it was noted that several large grants are being pursued.

This item will remain on the EMSC agenda for further updates. No action was required.

System Status Committee Report

Rick Jones reported that the July 22nd meeting was very productive. Steve Andriese made a presentation to the System Status Committee regarding the changes to the paper Patient Care Record (PCR). Other topics discussed were the electronic PCR project, recertification classes, the 5-grid rule, and fire first responder issues.

Report on July 26, 2004 Fire First Response Meeting

Mr. Andriese reported that representatives from ambulance providers and fire departments were present. The focus of the meeting centered on the financial and personnel issues facing the fire service in Stanislaus County, and how they impact the fire service's ability to continue the same level of response to EMS calls.

Mr. Andriese reviewed the problems facing the fire service that were identified, and potential solutions for future consideration were discussed. The ambulance providers expressed similar problems, and agreed to outline their specific challenges at the next meeting so the group would have a complete picture of the scope of the issues. The group will meet again on August 25th. The goal of that meeting will be to brainstorm potential solutions, prioritize them, and develop an action plan.

The EMSC asked that the minutes of the Fire First Response meetings be included in the EMSC's agenda packets.

A Committee member asked when staff would be able to provide Response Time Compliance Reports. Mr. Andriese explained that staff time has been devoted to writing the Calaveras Exclusive Operating Area RFP, and will make every effort to have response time data available at the next EMSC meeting.

Let the record show that John Cremin was excused at 2:45 p.m.

Modesto Fire Department ALS First Response Study

Chief Miguel stated that the purpose of his presentation was to report on the progress of the Modesto Fire Department's ALS First Response pilot program, and to ask the EMSC's approval to relocate the ALS unit, and to grant the program a six-month extension.

Chief Miguel gave a brief history of the program, which was established in July of 2003. He presented statistical data, which included that during the past year, Engine 24 has responded to a total 1149 medical emergencies, of which 371 were determined to be true advanced life support patient contacts, with an average response time of 4.24 minutes.

Initially, it was agreed that the best location for the ALS unit would be at Station 4, located at Blue Gum and Carpenter Road. However, AMR has relocated one of their posting locations to within a quarter mile of Station 4, so the ALS unit is no longer filling one of the more

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difficult areas. Chief Miguel stated that he met with AMR personnel to determine the placement of the ALS engine where it could best serve the system long term. According to AMR statistics, that would be Station 7, or Station 9. Modesto Fire's proposal, which has been agreed upon by AMR, is to move the ALS unit to Station 7, where the call volume is higher. The target date for implementation of the change is September 1.

Chief Miguel noted that the primary mission of the fire department is fire suppression and rescue efforts. He requested that the ALS engine be allowed to stop the clock for AMR during the six month extension.

Chief Miguel also reported that Modesto Fire has contracted with Dr. Mitchell to be the Medical Director for this program. The goal of the pilot program is to demonstrate the effectiveness of fire ALS in the city of Modesto, and ultimately work with the local provider, the EMS Agency, and the EMSC to solidify an ALS program within the fire department

Mr. Jones presented supporting data to show that relocating the ALS unit would create a better opportunity to cover AMR's blue zone.

M/S/C (Kohrman/Rossini) To approve Modesto Fire's request for a six-month extension of the ALS First Response pilot program; to approve moving the ALS engine from Station 4 to Station 7; and to agree that the ALS First Response will stop the clock for AMR.

Vote: Unanimous

Request for Ambulance Grid Designation Change

Mr. Jones handed out a map entitled *Stanislaus County Ambulance Zones and Grid*. He explained the 5-grid rule, and provided information showing that there would be no negative impact on data collection. He stated that staff recommends that the 5-grid rule as applied to suburban and rural be adopted.

After discussion regarding concern about population growth, the following motion was made and voted upon:

M/S/C (Hinshaw/Morris) To approve the expansion of the 5-grid rule to suburban and rural, with the caveat that the EMSC has the right to take a look at rapid growth in an area, and that staff present a grid update to the EMSC no later than June of 2006.

Vote: Unanimous

Proposal for QRVs

Mr. Jones reported that WestSide Ambulance has requested approval of a QRV in their response area. They have a supervisor vehicle that is ALS equipped and responds to calls as an ALS first responder and mutual aid to the ambulance crew. The purpose of the QRV would be

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to extend the response time of the unit en route. He referred the Committee to the memo from Chuck Coelho, Ambulance Director for WestSide Ambulance, which was included in the agenda packet.

Mr. Baxter stated that the last QRV pilot program was not satisfactory. He didn't see a benefit to the WestSide proposal as it was presented, so he could not support it at this time.

Chief Hinshaw stated that he was uncomfortable with the contractual obligation and questioned whether it would open the door to debate what ALS is.

After considerable discussion, the Committee requested that a more detailed presentation be made at the next EMSC meeting, and that the AMR QRV final report be included for review.

Mr. Coelho stated that he would continue to respond, as it is an enhancement to the system.

Date and Location of Next Meeting

October 21, 2004 at 2:00 p.m., at the Dispatch Center

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.