

Emergency Preparedness Committee
August 7, 2006 1 p.m.
Memorial Conference Center
1700 McHenry Ave, Modesto (McHenry Village)

Attendance:

Doug Buchanan, Mountain-Valley EMS Agency
Renee Cartier, Stanislaus Health Services Agency
Rosie Lopez, Stanislaus HSA
John Walker MD, Stanislaus Public Health Officer
Kay Gordon, (chair) Doctors Medical Center
Robert Mark Keizer, Memorial Medical Center
Lucian Thomas, MPD/SR911
Dan Cipponeri, Progress Valley/Evergreen
Rudy Duran, Behavioral Health
Dennis Nelson, Doctors Medical Center
Sharon Perry, Memorial Medical Center
Phil Cook, Kaiser Permanente
Chuck Baucom, Merced EMS Agency
Jerry Grandon, GVHC
Jim Worobe, Mountain-Valley EMS Agency
Terry Nelson, Stanislaus Surgical Hospital
Lee Leatherman, Emanuel Medical Center
Michael Handley
Richard McGinthy, Hospice
David Plantier, Doctors Medical Center
Robert Barandka, DMC ED Medical Director
Marianne Shaw, Memorial Medical Center
Patrick Lynch, RDMHS, San Joaquin EMS Agency

1. Welcome and Introductions

Kay welcomed everyone. Self-introductions conducted.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion: (Dan/Renee) To approve the minutes with one correct (Dennis Nelson present at the July meeting) unanimous “ to accept the minutes as presented.”

3. System Saturation

This item is being deferred to the next meeting for a report from the ED Managers meeting and the Bylaws subcommittee. The ED Managers meeting will be meeting August 30th. Kay requested that the role of the DCF be discussed under this item in the future, as well as under the Heat Emergencies item on today’s agenda.

4. Communications Interoperability

Lt. Thomas addressed the committee regarding Interoperability Communications projects. Primary focus of county agencies is Mt. Oso upgrades/improvements. Additionally, they are looking at adding “voter” sites within the county. Another project is the addition of a backup repeater on Fowler Peak. Law Enforcement currently has a frequency for interoperability which combines multiple

frequencies. SR911 has the ability to bridge frequencies together. Doug shared that the EPC had previously re-prioritized the Mt. Oso repeater upgrade as a priority. Dr. Walker shared that he will be meeting with the local Homeland Security group this week to look at priorities. The county is also looking at hiring a consultant to look at the “long term” communications plan.

5. Heat Emergencies.

Renee shared that Public Health declared a state of emergency during the severe heat a couple weeks ago. The first declaration was to address livestock, the second included threat to humans due to heat. Eleven patients had to be evacuated from Kindred (including 7 vent pts). The EOC was successful finding places to where these patients could be directed with the help of the DCF. The following day, a system was developed to conduct assessments of the extended care facilities. This was a big learning process for everyone. Cooling Centers were established, as well as a hotline for heat emergencies. There were about 19 deaths attributed to the heat. Renee also shared that they looked at the San Joaquin County plan, which assigned the SNFs to one of the Acute Care hospitals to conduct the bed availability assessment.

Dr. Walker shared that there had never been a need in the past to issue a heat advisory in the Central Valley. What made this event significant was not simply the heat, but rather the prolonged heat. The county is also looking at future triggers for this type of environmental emergency. Jerry also shared that the GVHC clinic system was not notified of cooling centers open or EOC Activation. Terry suggested that maybe we needed more information added to the “Event” created by the DCF on EMSystem, so at least the healthcare system has current and accurate information regarding any health related event.

Dan shared various documents regarding Exemptions from Rolling Blackouts and Emergency Preparedness of SNFs. He also shared the current plan of Evergreen in response to a Heat Wave emergency. Dan also suggested a letter from Public Health, EMS Agency, and possibly the EPC to MID requesting exception of all the SNFs from Rolling Blackouts. Dr. Walker shared that the governor has formed a committee to provide recommendations regarding heat emergencies by the end of this month. Dr. Walker requested that this item be placed on the agenda for September for follow-up. Renee suggested that a report might not be available until October.

6. HRSA Update

a. Year 3

- **Communications (Professional Management Associates)**

Doug shared that the Final Stanislaus County Medical/Health Communications Plan document was distributed for comment. Steve Kovacs has requested comments by August 15th. Dr. Walker suggested that the Interoperability Group look at this document and provide input. Lucian shared again that he would like to see a full County Communications Plan which incorporates all disciplines plans. Dr. Walker shared that it would be desirable to have a matrix as an appendix to this document. Chuck shared that Merced established an 800 frequency for interoperability (supervisor vehicles, etc), but this

has not accomplished “true” interoperability, i.e. all emergency responders able to hear and speak to one another.

- **Surge Capacity (Health Analytics)**

The ED Managers will be looking at the final report and draft Stanislaus County Hospital Saturation Policy later this month. A report will be provided at the September EPC meeting.

- b. HRSA Year 4**

Renee shared that she had sent out the Grainger Purchase Order list to the committee. She is also awaiting invoices from the local providers for Training expenses. Renee also shared that she can only reimburse agencies that have the contract on file with CDHS and H.S.A. No radio purchases have yet been made, until final recommendations are made on communications.

- c. Pandemic Flu**

Renee distributed the draft After Action Report, and will also be sending out electronically. She has also scheduled a formal review for Sept 15th. Everyone should be receiving more information electronically in upcoming weeks.

7. Roundtable

-Kay shared the Sept 26-28 Sacramento CHA Conference is coming up. There is also a HICS workshop scheduled on the day before. She also shared regarding the Basic Practices Checklists, which she previously sent out by email.

-Dan shared that he found the Non-Hospital Site Analysis Matrix useful.

8. Next Meeting: September 11, 2006