



# EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

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## MEETING MINUTES

March 14, 2007

### MEMBERS PRESENT REPRESENTING

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair: Allen Tobias *District II***

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair: Kacey Hansen *Trauma Center***

**Executive Committee: Paul Freitas *Alameda-Contra  
Costa Medical Association***

Lori Altabet\* *Base Hospital Coordinator*

Joseph Barger *Contra Costa County Health Services*

Deborah Campbell\* *District II*

Brent Finster\* *Communications Center Managers Assoc*

Paul Freitas *Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association*

Dave Gaynor\* *District III*

Tim Hennessey *Communications Center Managers' Assoc*

Farrell Holderman\* *District V*

Marcy Kalogiannis *Emergency Nurses Association – East  
Bay Chapter*

Art Lathrop *EMS Director*

Darrell Lee *Public Provider Field Paramedic*

Debbie Meier *Contra Costa Fire Chiefs' Assoc*

Leslie Mueller *Ambulance Providers - CC Contract*

Odessa McGahee *District V*

Scott Wallace *Air Medical Transportation Provider*

### MEMBERS ABSENT REPRESENTING

Paula Andrews *American Red Cross*

Julia Buss *American Heart Association*

Laronda Chambers *District I*

Ross Fay *Air Medical Transportation Provider*

Charles Gibson *Contra Costa Police Chiefs' Assoc*

Kacey Hansen *Trauma Center – CC Contract*

Lisa Hoffmann *Contra Costa Sheriff-Coroner*

Renee Juster *Hospital Council of the East Bay*

Ellen Leng *Emergency Department Physicians*

Leslie Mueller *Ambulance Providers - CC Contract*

Mark Mulgrew *California Highway Patrol*

### OTHERS PRESENT

Jerry Chanba

Pam Dodson *EMS*

Josh Enea

Becky Hobson *AMR*

Pat Frost *EMS*

Dave George *Contra Costa Fire*

Bruce Kenagy *EMS*

Kevin Robinson *AMR*

Paul Rosa

Derrick Talbert *Waterworld Concord*

Suzanne Tavano *Contra Costa Health Services*

Donald Waters *Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Assoc*

### STAFF PRESENT

Lauren Kovaleff *EMS Assistant Director*

Meeting was called to order by **Vice Chair Tobias** at 4:05 p.m.

*I. Introduction of Members and Guests*

Attendees made self-introductions.

*II. Approval of Minutes*

**Member Hennessey** asked that the name of his Alternate, **Member Finster**, be removed from the MEMBERS ABSENT REPRESENTING portion of the Minutes, as **Member Hennessey** was present at the December 2006 meeting.

**M/S/C to approve minutes of the December 2006 meeting.**

*III. Comments from the Public*

There were no comments.

*IV. Chair's Report*

**Co-Chair Tobias** reminded members that by July 2007 all health clubs in California are required by State law to have at least one AED (automated external defibrillator) in place.

**Co-Chair Tobias** introduced EMS **Staff Dodson** who shared the story of an individual who suffered a sudden cardiac arrest while at *Waterworld Concord* in July of 2006. **Josh Enea**, EMT Supervisor at *Waterworld* responded with a public access defibrillator and was able to save the life of this individual. The survivor then thanked **Mr. Enea**, fire personnel, and AMR. **Member Barger** presented **Mr. Enea** with a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the EMCC. **Co-Chair Tobias** also congratulated **Mr. Enea** and presented him with a "life saver" pin.

*V. Members' Reports*

There were no reports.

*VI. First Responder Patient Care Reporting System*

**Member Meier** gave an update on the countywide patient care record data system funded by Measure H. Implemented in January, county fire agencies are either already using the system or in training. Feedback on the system has been very positive. **Member Lathrop** thanked **Chief Alan Hartford** and all those involved in implementing the system. He applauded Contra Costa County for being one of the first counties in the State to get all the fire departments on a single patient care reporting system, and stated that this will be an enormous advantage to our EMS system and quality improvement program.

*VII. Measure H Communications Upgrades*

**Alternate Member Finster** made a PowerPoint presentation regarding EMS communications and system enhancements funded by Measure H. Major points were: agencies benefiting from the upgrades; the regional MDT (mobile data terminal) project timeline and benefits; an overview of the MDT hardware and software; the Deccan International Move Up Module and video display wall which will allow a real-time dynamic look at fire, paramedic, law enforcement and ambulance coverage countywide. He spoke about the Contra Costa County Fire Chiefs' Association agreement regarding closest unit response regardless of jurisdiction and commented on the good relationship between the fire agencies. He then thanked EMS staff and the EMCC for supporting this project.

*VIII. EMS Fire Training Consortium*

**Member Meier** (San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District) and **Chief Dave George** (Contra Costa Fire Protection District), Co-Chairs of the EMS Fire Training Consortium (CCTC), gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the CCTC. They made the following points:

- The CCTC is composed of all county fire agencies as well as AMR. Its mission is to create and improve training curriculum and share resources, in an effort to standardize and advance paramedic and EMT training.
- By leveraging the collective knowledge of various agencies, the CCTC is able to provide high quality training. Teamwork and team-oriented training play a large role in the work of the CCTC.

- Performance improvement, countywide needs assessments, and program design and delivery review will be ongoing charges of the group. Training curriculum is QI driven and the new pre-hospital care data system will help determine future training modules.
- The CCTC has created a training calendar that allows staff who have missed trainings in their own agencies to make up the training at another agency. It has purchased an emergency care simulator (METI Man) that allows for real-life-based training. At present, 50 trainings have been held in 51 days and 540 pre-hospital providers have participated in the trainings.
- Future plans include the purchase of a pediatric version of METI Man and creation of a training library.

On behalf of the CCTC, they thanked the EMCC for its support and presented **Art Lathrop** and **Lauren Kovaleff** with certificates of appreciation for the support of EMS. **Becky Hobson**, on behalf of **Leslie Mueller** of AMR, accepted a certificate thanking AMR for dedicating an ambulance and fulltime personnel to transport METI Man to training sites. **Member Meier** acknowledged **Dave Gehling** of Contra Costa Fire District for his work in developing a training schedule for the 10 CCTC agencies, and the contribution he and **Greg Kennedy** (Contra Costa Fire District) made to curriculum development. The CCTC also thanked **Bruce Stricker**, AMR, who transports METI Man and assists with set up and trainings.

**Co-Chair Tobias** commented that based on today's presentation, a common theme appears to be the importance of inter-agency cooperation. He then requested to hear Item XI next.

X. *Psychiatric Holds in the Hospital*

**Co-Member Freitas** reported that the handouts and video are completed. He noted that patients and their parents are represented in the video. **Suzanne Tavano**, Contra Costa Health Services, reported that Contra Costa County Counsel and Risk Management both need to sign off on the video. She said that the MOUs and Board Orders are in place so that we can move ahead quickly once the signatures are obtained. She said that the policy is drawing a lot of positive attention from the greater Bay Area.

IIIX. *STEMI Cardiac Center Standards*

**Member Barger** reported that all ambulance personnel in the County now have the ability to perform 12-lead ECGs in the field to detect STEMI. Staff is in the phase of putting the data systems process together. There will be a meeting with staff from area hospitals on March 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss standards for providing this interventional care to STEMI patients. Standards will include areas such as personnel, leadership, equipment, and availability. **Member Barger** hopes to have the program, including data evaluation, implemented by end of year.

XIII. *EMS Medical Director's Report*

**Member Barger** stated that EMS staff is working hard on its Quality Improvement Plan. He noted that **Staff Frost**, Quality Improvement Coordinator, has brought a lot of energy and focus to this process. Working with pre-hospital care providers in the County, particularly those using electronic patient record data systems, the goal is to capture and evaluate critical data in order to provide feedback to the CCTC.

Member Barger further reported that there are plans to go ahead with two initiatives this fall: 1) a countywide continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) program will be initiated, which will provide a better mechanism for oxygenation of patients with heart failure and respiratory complaints, and 2) an adult intraosseous process, in which intravenous fluid can be injected through a needle drilled into a bone. EMS is also working with Concord Police on developing a tactical medical unit paramedic program, which would train a paramedic to provide medical care during a SWAT-team type situation.

*XI. Doctors San Pablo (DSP)*

**Staff Kovaleff** made this report on behalf of **Gisela Hernández** of DSP, who would not be able to attend this meeting. **Ms. Hernández** asked Staff Kovaleff to share the following:

- DSP has hired a consultant to complete a financial assessment and make recommendations. The report was presented to the JPA last week. The report is available on DSP's website at [www.doctorsmedicalcenter.org](http://www.doctorsmedicalcenter.org).
- DSP has already implemented some recommendations, such as changing management structure so that it is more reflective of the size of the hospital.

*XII. EMS Director's Report*

**Member Lathrop** reported the following:

- Staff has been working with San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District on a hazard material paramedic program.
- The Facilities and Critical Care Committee has decided to continue the emergency department (ED) "no-diversion" policy that went into effect last fall when Doctors San Pablo ED went on extended diversion. Though the hospitals have experienced significant challenges, they feel that not allowing diversion has been helpful in forcing them to address the issue of ED overload on a hospital-wide basis and not just in the ED.
- EMS will be tracking the following legislation:
  - SB 261 – would establish a state regional trauma system;
  - AB 220 – creates the Firefighters Procedural Bill of Rights and would restrict the powers of local EMS medical directors in disciplinary actions against firefighters functioning as paramedics and EMTs; and
  - SB 1603 – would allow cities, districts or other local agencies the currently provide paramedic service to set up their own EMS and ambulance service. **Member Lathrop's** concern is that not all counties have the same level of interagency cooperation that Contra Costa County enjoys.

*XIV. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – June 13, 2007*

- 5150 progress
- Hazmat paramedic
- Doctors San Pablo
- Chempack

If anyone has any additional items to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting, contact the EMS office.

*XV. Adjournment*

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
EMCC Secretary