



EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

MEETING MINUTES

June 14, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT REPRESENTING

Chair: Ellen Leng *Emergency Department Physicians*

1st Vice Chair: Allen Tobias *District II*

2nd Vice Chair: Kacey Hansen *Trauma Center*

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

**Executive Committee: Leslie Mueller *Ambulance
Providers (Contra Costa Contract)***

Lori Altabet* *Base Hospital Coordinator*

Susan Ancell* *Hospital Council of the East Bay*

Joseph Barger *Contra Costa County Health Services*

Allen Drabinsky* *Emergency Department Physicians*

Ross Fay *Air Medical Transportation Provider*

Brent Finster *Communications Center Managers Association*

Paul Freitas *Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association*

Susan Garske *EMS Training Institution*

Dave Gaynor* *District III*

Madeline Ibrahim* *District I*

Renee Juster *Hospital Council of the East Bay*

Art Lathrop *EMS Director*

Darrell Lee *Public Provider Field Paramedic*

Donna McClane *District V*

Matthew Powers *Emergency Nurses Association*

John Tysell *District I*

MEMBERS ABSENT REPRESENTING

Paul Fontana *California Highway Patrol*

Lisa Hoffman *Contra Costa Sheriff-Coroner*

Debra Meir *Contra Costa Fire Chief Association*

OTHERS PRESENT

Alan Hartford *Contra Costa Fire District*

Gisella Hernandez *Doctors Medical Center – San
Pablo*

Bruce Kenagy *EMS*

Angela Lombardi, *AMR*

Marc Pinkas *AMR*

Judy Smith *EMS*

Kristina Spurgeon *John Muir Health*

STAFF PRESENT

Lauren Kovaleff *EMS Assistant Director*

Meeting was called to order by **Chair Leng** at 4:06 p.m.

I. Introduction of Members and Guests

Attendees made self-introductions.

II. Approval of Minutes

M/S/C (Tobias/Fay) to approve minutes of the March 2006 meeting. (Note: following the meeting **Member Powers**, Emergency Nurses Association, noted that he had been in attendance at the March 2006 meeting. Minutes will be changed to reflect his presence.)

III. Comments from the Public

There were no comments.

IV. Chair's Report

Chair Leng reported that a letter was sent to the California Medical Assistance Commission (CMAC) to support Doctors Medical Center's funding request.

V. *Members' Reports*

Member Tysell announced his resignation from the EMCC. He has enjoyed his many years on the Committee, but will now be working with Supervisor Gioa on other issues.

VI. *EMCC Officer Nominating Committee Slate Presentation of Proposed Officers for 11/06 to 11/07 Term*

On behalf of the EMCC Officer Nominating Committee, **Alternate Member Altabet** put forth the following slate of proposed officers for the term beginning October 1, 2006. (All candidates have been contacted and have agreed to serve if elected.) **Chair Leng** requested nominations from the floor. There were none.

Ellen Leng, MD (Emergency Department Physicians) – Chair

Allan Tobias (District II) – 1st Vice Chair

Kacey Hansen, RN (Trauma Center) – 2nd Vice Chair

Paul Freitas, MD (Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association) – Executive Committee

Leslie Mueller (Ambulance Providers) – Executive Committee

M/S/C (Altabet/Garske) to accept the EMCC Officer Nominating Committee report and elect the proposed officers by unanimous vote.

VII. *EMCC Bylaws Committee*

Chair Leng reported that the Bylaws have not been reviewed/revised for several years. One concern has been that the Officers and Executive Committee terms are for one year only. Based on input from **Member Tobias**, **Staff Kovaleff** is currently revising the Bylaws. Bylaw Committee members are **Chair Leng**, and **Members Tobias** (Chair of this Committee) and **Hanson**. If any Member is interested in serving on the Committee, please notify **Chair Leng** or Staff. EMCC Members can expect to receive a draft version of the Bylaws two weeks prior to the next meeting.

VIII. *AMR Contract Compliance*

EMS Staff Kenagy delivered a PowerPoint overview of the compliance process. Some main points covered were:

- This is the first year of a five-year contract, with a four-year renewal based on finding of substantial compliance by the Board of Supervisors (BOS).
- AMR and EMS meet monthly to review data and compliance, and to resolve conflicts. Different parts of the contract are reviewed and potential issues are identified. A monthly Report Card is issued listing details of contract and compliance/deficiencies.
- AMR is in compliance with most contract requirements.

Regarding the requirement that AMR give 25 free CPR trainings per year, for the life of the contract, **Angela Lombardi** of AMR reported that 17 classes have been provided throughout the County so far this year.

Member Lathrop stated that the Report Card is on the EMS website at www.cccems.org and that comments are welcome. He indicated that a formal report will be presented to the EMCC as an action item in September, and will then be forwarded on to the BOS in October.

IX. 5150 Procedures for ED Physicians

Member Freitas reported that there has been a tremendous amount of progress since the last meeting. An MOU between Mental Health, the Medical Association, the Hospital Association, and Kaiser Physicians has been agreed upon. **Member Freitas** touched on the areas that had been of concern to each of the groups involved, such as training, standards, and the 72-hour hold expiration. A multi-media training vehicle has been developed and will eventually be on DVD which will allow departments to train on their own schedules. He also stated that a QI process has been developed which will allow for confidential review of cases. **Chair Leng** and the Committee thanked all those who have worked on this issue.

X. Meeting with Family and Human Services on CPR

Chair Leng reported that **Supervisor DeSaulnier** has asked the EMCC and other entities to look into the feasibility of providing free CPR classes to County residents. A committee made up of **Member Garske**, **Member Talavera**, and **Chair Leng** will be meeting with Family and Human Services on July 24th to discuss the viability of such classes, and to see how it might be promoted. **Member Lathrop** mentioned that this issue came up two years ago, but that no organization was willing to take on the project. He noted that all fire departments and school districts within the County, as well as the Red Cross and the American Heart Association, will be invited to the meeting. **Chair Leng** invited interested Committee members to attend.

XI. Doctors Medical Center Status

Gisella Hernandez, Community Relations Manager of Doctors Medical Center (DMC), reported that the basic message is that significant progress has been made over the past two months. She noted the following:

- In the last six months the deficit has been between \$1 to \$1.5 million per month, but the month of April 2006 saw loss reduced to \$400,000. Expectations are that May will show similar results.
- Regarding improvements in operations, a new information technology project will be in place by August 1st and the expectation is that it will save money and improve the quality of patient care.
- Nurse recruitment has been very successful, to the point where the number of traveling nurses has been reduced from 130 in 2004 to three at present.
- Rates have just been re-negotiated with the state and DMC will be receiving an additional \$4 million per year.
- CMAC has received over 80 funding requests from hospitals throughout the state, and the amount available is now down to \$13 million. Additionally, because the \$13 million includes a match from the Federal government which limits appropriations to non-public hospitals only, DMC chances of receiving funds are further reduced. **Ms. Hernandez** thanked the EMCC for the letter of support submitted for this funding request. The granting process is behind schedule, but **Ms. Hernandez** expects an update by the end of June.

Member Gaynor expressed concern over a potential closing of DMC. There was lengthy discussion around patient diversion scenarios and EMCC's role in the face of such a closure. **Member Tysell** pointed out that the hospital is not in immediate danger of closing and that an increase in parcel tax is currently being considered, which could potentially raise an additional \$6 million per year. He stated that DMC will have a clearer picture of where they stand in the coming three months.

XII. EMS Director's Report

- Three staff members attended the annual EMS Administrators' Conference in San Diego the end of May. There was a lot of emphasis on research in EMS.
- Two state bills are currently being considered. SB 1350 will establish possibly four or five trauma regions in the state, to create a statewide trauma system. There is a lot of support for this bill. AB 2554 will limit the authority of EMS Medical Directors in the EMT 1 discipline process. This bill has raised some concerns to some stakeholders.
- The recent fire in Richmond, in which three children lost their lives, has focused attention on the need to reinstate the Auto Aid agreement between Contra Costa Fire and the City of Richmond. **Chief Hartford** stated that Contra Costa Fire fully supports reinstating the agreement.

XIII. EMS Medical Director's Report

- Regarding the 12 Lead program, we are continuing to develop the program. AMR will do this year, and Contra Costa Fire will handle the next year.
- We are working on an EMS data set for QI purposes.
- New ACLS changes have come out and we will have protocols in place by the next planned revision in December.
- The Institute on Medicine has released a report on emergency care. The report highlights emergency department (ED) crowding and ambulance diversion. The State of California received the highest grade in the nation. **Member Barger** attributes this to the state having one of the better public health and malpractice milieus for emergency care. However, access and quality of care did not receive high grades. The real challenge for California is capacity; we are last or nearly last in the number of ED beds and nurses.

XIV. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – September 13, 2006

- Doctors Medical Center Status

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

XV. Adjournment

M/S/C (Tobias/Lee) to adjourn at 5:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

EMCC Secretary