

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2005

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Tysell
Madeline Ibrahim
Al Tobias
Deborah Campbell
Patricia Barron
Dave Gaynor
Debbie Meier
Lisa Hoffman
Leslie Mueller
Scott Wallace
Lori Altabet
Ellen Leng
Susan Garske
Darrell Lee
Art Lathrop

District I
District I, Alternate
District II
District II, Alternate
District III
District III, Alternate
Contra Costa Fire Chiefs Association
Contra Costa Sheriff-Coroner
Ambulance Providers (CCC Contract)
Air Medical Transportation Provider, Alternate
Base Hospital (CCC Contract), Alternate
ED Physicians
EMS Training Institution
Public Provider Field Care Paramedic
EMS Director

GUESTS

Donald Waters
Peggy Lipper
Roy Kniveton
Alan Hartford
Angela Lambardi

ACCMA
Doctors Medical Center
Zoll Medical
Contra Costa Fire
AMR

STAFF PRESENT

Art Lathrop
Lauren Kovaleff
Judith Smith
Ruth Burk
Pam Hall

EMS Director
EMS Program Coordinator
EMS Trauma Coordinator
EMS Quality Assurance Coordinator
EMCC Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT

District IV
Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association
American Red Cross
Communications Center Managers Association
Emergency Nurses Association
Public Managers Association
CAER
Private Provider Field Care Paramedic
Member-At-Large

District V
American Heart Association
California Highway Patrol
Contra Costa Police Chiefs Association
Hospital Council of the East Bay
Trauma Center
Contra Costa Health Services
Second Vice-Chair

Chair, John Tysell, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

1. Self-introductions were made.
2. M/S/C (Tobias/Garske) approving the minutes of the June 8, 2005 meeting.
3. There were no comments from the public.
4. Chair, John Tysell, announced that Guy Schuelke, District IV Consumer Representative and recently elected EMCC Chair for the upcoming period, has resigned from the EMCC due to a career change.
5. Leslie Mueller, AMR, announced that they have added 125 new EMTs and Paramedics as well as additional administrative staff. They expect to have compliance reports online in about 30 days.
6. The EMCC Officer Nominating Committee proposed that, due to Guy Schuelke's resignation from the EMCC, Vice-Chair Dr. Ellen Leng be moved to the position of Chair, 2nd Vice-Chair, Dr. Allan Tobias, be moved to the Vice-Chair position, leaving Dr. Paul Freitas and Leslie Mueller in their respective Member-at-Large positions. The 2nd Vice-Chair position would remain empty. M/S/C (Tobias/Mueller) accepting the nominating committee report and recommendations.
7. Lauren Kovaleff distributed Linda Kirkhorn's update report on psychiatric holds by ED physicians. The 5150 Workgroup has met once since the last EMCC meeting. The mental health director, Donna Wigand, has approved the MOU that will be signed by the County and hospitals and clinics. Linda attended the CCC Police Chiefs' Association meeting, all Chiefs were in attendance except the CCC College District's Chief, and they were pleased to hear that their officers will no be pulled from regular duties to write the 5150 holds.
8. Lipper, of West Contra Costa Health Care District, went over update information regarding the status of the Health Care District, Doctors' Hospital – San Pablo. The information included improvement of the monthly operating loss that was occurring at the time the District took over the San Pablo site, and, the anticipation of breaking even in 2006. She went over the development of new programs, ongoing statistical analysis of expense reduction, hiring of 108 new R.N.s and a number of new physicians, numerous community outreach implementations, a new computer information system made possible through partnering with McKesson, the new tax income obtained, as well items in the works. An article in the newspaper was mentioned and committee members requested that a copy be forwarded to them.

9. Art reported that for some time disaster responders have been looking at probabilities, response capabilities and response plan development for 3 scenarios: 1) a disastrous hurricane like the category 5 Katrina that hit New Orleans; 2) a nuclear explosion in New York; 3) a major earthquake on a California fault. Subsequent to the Katrina hurricane disaster, the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors took action, directing the County Administrator and Office of Emergency Services to evaluate response plans and preparedness in a special Board session. At this meeting the Supervisors directed OES to return in 90 days with a report detailing the level of preparedness in the county. Due, in part, to the refineries in the county and County Administration's supportiveness of preparation, it is felt that Contra Costa actually has a pretty high level of preparedness.

Members of the DMAT CA-6 were activated to respond to the Katrina catastrophe. Art recently saw a presentation by Dave Lipin, Commander of the team, regarding this response and was impressed with the picture of the magnitude and scope of the disaster he presented so asked Darrell Lee, also a DMAT responder to make a presentation to the EMCC.

Darrell Lee --- DMAT CA-6 Response to New Orleans Hurricane Katrina Disaster: The new trucks and heavy responder equipment that FEMA had sent the team broke down and the team had to abandon them around Bakersfield, leaving the equipment waiting for a mechanical team response. (As it ended up, regular use to keep batteries and fluids, and other items needing regular maintenance, maintained or changed out needs to be a standard assigned duty.) The team was taken to the Superdome and the situation was extremely bad – they had a limited supply of drugs, watched people die, saw numerous rape victims, there were shots being fired, there was no light, no food, no water or any other amenities, the restrooms were incapable of handling the demand of that many people for that long. After the decision was made to divert the National Guard from the Superdome to handling looters in the city, the situation became much more dangerous and the team had to quietly leave (leaving all their personal gear, that they pay for themselves) one at the time in order to avoid drawing attention and creating a more dangerous situation, as it was, people tried to leave with them and were begging for food and drugs. The team had a day off and anyone who wanted to go home left. The team stayed, except for a couple of members who could not deal with any more time in this situation. They were then redeployed to the airport. Safety was better at the airport but it was like a big hospital/morgue, the flow of patients was constant. There was still a drug shortage, they operated under poor conditions, but people they were unable to help into an area that was essentially a holding area, had semi-truck freezer units to hold bodies. It was the first time people had been transported to places all over the country, separating families, including small children. There were many people who were looking for their loved ones. Morgue duty was hard.

10. Art Lathrop turned this section over to Ruth Burk and Leslie Mueller. Leslie reported that AMR has a new employee in charge of their Public Access Defibrillation program and she will be developing their outreach program, Angela has a B.A. in political science and has worked as a television health reporter. Their program will have about 25 defibrillators out in community locations shortly. Ruth has now placed 23 of the 42 EMS defibrillators. AMR and Contra Costa Fire will be putting defibrillator locations into their CAD systems. While EMS units must be placed at public-owned sites, AMR is able to place units anywhere for public access. AMR will also be providing and placing 25 units per year.
11. Contra Costa EMS began using the EMT-I National Registry exam in 2004. Effective 2006, the National Registry will become standardized across EMS and in 2007 online self-testing will start.
12. The ICE (In Case of Emergency) program promotes knowledge of and use of a cell phone address book entry titled ICE that contains your own personal emergency notification information in case of injury or other emergency which would leave you incapacitated. The Board of Supervisors discussed this and directed the County Administrator to return to the Board with a report. While first responders cannot take the time to check cell phones and would not be expected to use this system, there is not really a negative to use of this entry.
13. Art Lathrop, EMS Director reported that the EMS Annual Report was mailed out and is also available online.

Art also distributed the Abaris Group Casino Study. The full report will follow and will be available online at the EMS website. This report details effects of casino on Public Health. Current status of casino expansion is that the project is on hold.
14. If you have items you want placed on the agenda for the next meeting, December 14, 2005, contact the EMS office.
15. M/S/C to adjourn at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Hall
EMCC Secretary