



EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE  
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

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MEETING MINUTES

December 12, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT REPRESENTING

**Chair: Ellen Leng** *Emergency Department Physicians*

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

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

Lori Altabet\* *Base Hospital Coordinator*

Paula Andrews *American Red Cross*

Joseph Barger *Contra Costa County Health Services*

Ross Fay *Air Medical Transportation Provider*

Charles Hester *District IV*

Farrell Holderman *District V\**

Madeline Ibrahim\* *District I*

Renee Juster *Hospital Council of the East Bay*

Art Lathrop *EMS Director*

Darrell Lee *Public Provider Field Paramedic*

Odess McGahee *District V*

Mark Mulgrew *California Highway Patrol*

Kevin Robinson *Private Provider Field Paramedic*

Keith Robinson *Public Provider Field Paramedic\**

John Speakman *District III*

MEMBERS ABSENT REPRESENTING

Julia Buss *American Heart Association*

Laronda Chambers *District I*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair: Kacey Hansen** *Trauma Center – Contra Costa Contract*

Charles Gibson *Contra Costa Police Chiefs' Assoc*

Marcy Kalogiannis *Emergency Nurses Association East Bay Chapter*

Debbie Meier *Contra Costa Fire Chiefs' Assoc*

**Executive Committee: Leslie Mueller**

**Ambulance Providers - CC Contract**

Anthony Semenza *Community Awareness & Emergency Response (CAER)*

OTHERS PRESENT

Rea Anne Arcangel *American Heart Assoc*

Sharon Brackett *American Heart Association*

Leah Conyers *Kaiser Antioch ED, ANM*

Pat Frost *EMS*

Dave George *Contra Costa Fire District*

Loren Lemmons

Linda Mulgrew *AMR*

Greg Sekera *Pinole Fire District*

Andy Swartzell *San Ramon Valley Fire District*

Suzanne Tavano *Contra Costa Health Services*

Donald Waters *Alameda-CC Medical Assoc*

STAFF PRESENT

Lauren Kovaleff *EMS Assistant Director*

The meeting was called to order by **Chair Leng** at 4:05 p.m.

I. *Introduction of Members and Guests*

Attendees made self-introductions. **Chair Leng** welcomed new **Members Kevin Robinson, Charles Hester, John Speakman, and Keith Robinson.**

II. *Approval of Minutes*

**M/S/C to approve minutes of the September 12, 2007 meeting.**

III. *Comments from the Public*

**Leah Conyers**, Kaiser Antioch, shared that the new Kaiser Antioch facility opened on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Though still not 100% open, the emergency department has been very busy and receiving a lot of ambulance traffic. The previous week 600 patients were triaged and 400 were seen. It was not anticipated that the facility would be so busy, and additional beds will be opened once more staff can be hired.

\*Alternate

IV. *Chair's Report*

**Chair Leng** indicated that Alternate Care Sites will not be discussed at this meeting and that there are no plans to discuss this item at future meetings.

V. *Members Reports*

**Member Fay** indicated that he had brought CALSTAR calendars for the group, and they were available for anyone who would like one. **Member Fay** shared that he was recently interviewed by Gene Burns of the Ronn Owens Show, and that it was a good opportunity to explain the role of helicopter air ambulance service.

VI. *American Heart Association: CPR Anytime and Heart Safe Communities*

**Sharon Brockett**, American Heart Association (AHA), gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding improving out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrest survival. The current survival rate is 6.4% and the AHA's goal is to increase that rate to 26% by 2010. **Ms. Brockett** pointed out that 80% of cardiac arrests occur at home and are witnessed by family members, and that CPR by lay people is performed in only 27% of the cases. The AHA envisions a "Utopian Community" in which everyone knows how to do CPR. Some ideas to accomplish this are:

- Target schools as training grounds. For example, CPR would be taught to all 7<sup>th</sup> graders, and would be required for graduation from high school. This is especially important considering that the number of children experiencing cardiac arrest is rising.
- CPR would be a requirement for driver's license renewal, as well as necessary when leaving the hospital with a new baby.
- Encourage media involvement (e.g., public service announcements concerning AEDs).

The AHA believes that by working with key community leaders and partners that the creation of Heart Safe Cities is possible. EMS would play a lead role in collecting and sharing out-of-hospital cardiac arrest data, as well as increasing public awareness. Hospitals would be charged with tracking data, and offering community CPR training, and training health care staff in BLS, ACLS and PALS. **Ms. Brockett** showed the group the *CPR Anytime for Family and Friends* personal learning program package (available for around \$30), which can teach CPR in 22 minutes. She then made a gift of the package to **Chair Leng**.

**Member Barger** indicated that Alameda County currently has a pilot program studying the use of *CPR Anytime* in school curriculums. **Staff Dodson** shared that she has met with representatives from the Cities of San Ramon and Brentwood, who intend to enter into a "friendly competition" to obtain Heart Safe Community status first.

VIII. *EMCC Annual Report Review*

**Chair Leng** noted that requested additions to the report had been made, per her request, to the DMAT Rough and Ready exercise, progression of paramedic training, and STEMI receiving centers.

**M/S/C (Tobias/Freitas) to approve the EMCC Annual Report and forward it to the Board of Supervisors.**

XI. *EMS System Plan Objectives and Approval*

**Chair Leng** distributed the draft report and asked that members review the draft for comments. She requested that requests for "what you would like to see more/less of" be submitted to EMS staff by January 14<sup>th</sup>, and that the plan will be voted on at the March 2008 meeting.

XII. *EMS Director's Report*

**Member Lathrop** reported the following:

- Dr. Cesar Aristeiguieta will be leaving his position director of the State Emergency Medical Services Authority as of January 1, 2008 to return to private practice. **Member Lathrop** stated

that he will be missed and that we had established a good working relationship with him during his two-and-a-half years of service to the State.

- Doctors San Pablo (DSP) is still in bankruptcy and continues to operate at a loss. However, there are positive signs and as of October 20<sup>th</sup> they had 54 days of cash on hand. The oversight being provided by the County through the Joint Powers of Agreement as been viewed as very positive and there is cautious optimism about DSP's ability to come out of bankruptcy.
- The Human Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant (bioterrorism preparedness funds) has been renamed the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) grant. Representatives from the Hospital Disaster Forum are currently preparing a grant application for Year 6 (\$557,000). The emphasis this grant period is on interoperable communications.
- Antioch High School experienced a Multi-Casualty Incident (MCI) on October 31<sup>st</sup> due to the release of an unidentified substance (most likely pepper spray). The entire school was evacuated and 23 patients with minor respiratory problems were transported. This was the first significant event since the MCI plan went into effect on July 1, 2007.
- ReddiNet has been experiencing two problems: 1) lack of a timely response by users, and 2) facilities have been off line and unaware of it. The EMS office plans to step up communication drills.
- Zoll PCR, which was implemented in January 2007, is moving forward. **Chris Suter**, retired San Ramon Valley Assistant Fire Chief, has been hired to help implement the program.
- The recent fires in southern California prompted one of the largest evacuations in the history of the state. We will be looking closely at how the evacuations of skilled nursing facilities was handled and the adequacy of care provided in the shelters.
- The celebration of "30 Years of Paramedic Service" in Contra Costa County took place on November 16<sup>th</sup> and was well attended. REACH provided tee-shirts commemorating the event, and the surplus shirts will be available for purchase at the EMS office with proceeds going to the Contra Costa-Solano Food Bank.
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IX. *Patient Safety Program*

**Staff Frost** made a PowerPoint presentation concerning *Patient Safety First*, the County's new EMS event reporting program. This patient safety reporting program has the potential to be of great benefit to our local EMS system, and has received strong commitment and support from stakeholders. **Staff Frost** stated that punishment does little to improve system safety. This new program is based on best practices models and is designed to recognize excellence. Focus on patient/provider safety, recognition of exemplary care in the field, and an early notification system will all serve as risk management tools. **Staff Frost** pointed out that the most serious outcomes are contributed to multiple events, with patient handoffs being one of the highest risk areas. Recognizing the root causes of patient safety events and improving communication will greatly improve safety. *Patient Safety First* is an effective program for anonymous reporting, data collection and sharing, early identification of patient safety issues, and is a tool to address system-wide solutions. **Staff Frost** recognized the EMS QI Committee including **Andy Swartzell, Dave George, Greg Sekera, and Nancy Daniel** for their assistance in developing the program.

**Member Barger** commented that there is a lot of excitement concerning the potential of this program. The tool is available on the Contra Costa County EMS website ([cccems.org](http://cccems.org)).

VII. *Psychiatric Holds in the Hospital*

**Suzanne Tavano**, Contra Costa Health Services, reported that two meetings with emergency department liaisons have been held so far, and she is currently doing trainings with Contra Costa County Mental Health. She indicated that MOUs have been sent to the hospitals for signature.

- X. *EMCC Officer Nominating Committee Slate Presentation of Proposed Officers for 11/07 to 11/08 Term*  
**Member Juster**, on behalf of the EMCC Officer Nominating Committee, put forward the following nominations:

Chair – **Ellen Leng**, MD

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair – **Allen Tobias**, MD

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair – **Kacey Hansen**, RN

Executive Committee – **Paul Freitas**, MD, and **Leslie Mueller**

There being no additional nominations, **M/S/C (Speakman/Barger)** to accept these nominations of officers for the period of November 1, 2007 through November 30, 2008.

**Chair Leng** thanked **Members Ibrahim, Juster** and **Lee** for staffing the EMCC Officer Nominating Committee.

- XIII. *EMS Medical Director's Report*

**Member Barger** began by stating that there will be many changes in EMS in the coming year, with an emphasis on improving safety. He then reported on the following:

- The STEMI program is receiving lots of good feedback, with less than 60 minutes to balloon time. At Kaiser, the door-to-needle time is 11 minutes.
- The hospitals are being surveyed to determine their willingness to participate in a stroke system survey.
- Data on trauma shows that there is a steady increase of patients – up approximately 30% over the last decade. Some patterns are very clear. For example, the number of firearm assaults in Richmond has more than doubled. Antioch, Oakley and Brentwood have also seen an increase in violence. Various programs are being looked at to help mitigate this terrible issue, as levels of injury are great and are having a huge impact on the system.
- The category of motorcycle crash patients has also seen a large increase, with a notable jump in the age of crash patients 40 and above. **Member Mulgrew** shared that this is a statewide and nationwide problem. It is attributed the fact that baby boomers are purchasing motorcycles, and there is no requirement to take the California Highway Patrol motorcycle rider training course for anyone over the age of 21.

- XIV. *Agenda Items for Next Meeting – March 12, 2008*

- Doctors San Pablo
- Flu Season Report – Facilities & Critical Care Committee
- System Plan Approval
- Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) Grant – Communication: Dan Guerra

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

- XV. *Adjournment*

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
EMCC Secretary