



EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

MEETING MINUTES

December 13, 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*

Paula Andrews *American Red Cross*

Joseph Barger *Contra Costa County Health Services*

Laronda Chambers *District I*

Allen Drabinsky* *Emergency Department Physicians*

Ross Fay *Air Medical Transportation Provider*

Paul Freitas *Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association*

Susan Garske *EMS Training Institution*

Dave Gaynor* *District III*

Charles Gibson *Contra Costa Police Chiefs' Association*

Tim Hennessy *Communications Center Managers' Association*

Lisa Hoffmann *Contra Costa Sheriff-Coroner*

Madeline Ibrahim* *District I*

Renee Juster *Hospital Council of the East Bay*

Art Lathrop *EMS Director*

Darrell Lee *Public Provider Field Paramedic*

Leslie Mueller *Ambulance Providers (Contra Costa Contract)*

Odessa McGahee *District V*

MEMBERS ABSENT REPRESENTING

Julia Buss *American Heart Association*

Mark Mulgrew *California Highway Patrol*

Kacey Hanson *Trauma Center – Contra Costa Contract*

OTHERS PRESENT

Rea Anne Arcangel *American Heart Association*

Shaun Bouyga *California Highway Patrol*

Jeff Burris *East Contra Costa Fire*

Chris Eberle *AMR*

Pat Frost *EMS*

Dave George *Contra Costa Fire*

Gisela Hernandez *Doctors San Pablo*

Bruce Kenagy *EMS*

Judy Smith *EMS*

Suzanne Tavano *Contra Costa Health Services*

Donald Waters *Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association*

STAFF PRESENT

Lauren Kovaleff *EMS Assistant Director*

Meeting was called to order by **Chair Leng** at 4:00 p.m.

I. Introduction of Members and Guests

Attendees made self-introductions.

II. Approval of Minutes

M/S/C (Lee/Mueller) to approve minutes of the September 2006 meeting.

III. Comments from the Public

Member Mueller shared that AMR has moved into its new Contra Costa County Operations Center. Anyone interested in seeing the facility is invited to visit.

IV. Chair's Report

There was no report.

V. *Members' Reports*

There were no reports

VI. *Brown Act*

Staff Kovaleff indicated that all appointees to Board of Supervisor committees are required to follow certain rules and laws. New members to the EMCC (as well as returning members who have not already done so) are required to view a DVD concerning Brown Act and Better Governance Code requirements. The DVD will be available following the meeting for those who need to view it. **Staff Kovaleff** also offered to arrange an EMCC orientation for anyone interested.

Chair Leng asked to hear Item X next, so that the presenter, Member Hennessey, could keep a later appointment.

X. *Multi-Casualty Incident Plan (MCIP)*

Member Hennessey provided a handout to accompany his PowerPoint presentation regarding the 2006 Revision to the Multi-Casualty Incident Plan (MCIP), which is a component of the Contra Costa County Emergency Medical Services Agency System Plan. Developed by a multidisciplinary task force, the MCIP covers responses to various levels of incidents or potential incidents that occur within Contra Costa. He covered the following points:

- History of the Plan
- Current MCI Working Group
- Why Rewrite the Plan?
- MCI Plan Objectives
- Key Concepts
- MCI Tiers
- Plan Components

Staff Kovaleff reported that the Draft Plan has been distributed for feedback to the hospitals, fire chiefs, police chiefs, public and private communication centers, and ambulance providers. The task force has received feedback from these groups. **Chair Leng** thanked **Member Hennessey** and the working group for producing an excellent document and recommended that the Committee should approve the plan. **Member Lathrop** also thanked **Member Hennessey** and the working group for their efforts, and, on the recommendation of **Member Hennessey** suggested that the Committee approve the Plan to go into effect on June 1, 2007 to accommodate training logistics.

M/S/C (Fay/Drabinsky) to endorse the Multi-Casualty Incident Plan

Following the endorsement, a representative from the California Highway Patrol (CHP) requested that the Plan include helicopter communications information. **Member Lathrop**, with the permission of those who had moved and seconded the endorsement, asked the Committee to amend the MCIP this suggestion by the CHP. **Chair Leng** asked if anyone was opposed to the addition of the "friendly amendment." There was no opposition.

Member Lee stated that the document is a dynamic plan, open to amendment, and that it will be reviewed annually.

VII. Draft Bylaws

Chair Leng indicated that the Bylaws have been under revision mainly to facilitate allowing the Executive Committee and Officers to be in place for longer than a one-year period. She thanked **1st Vice Chair Tobias**, **2nd Vice Chair Hansen**, and **Member Ibrahim** for their work on the document. **Staff Kovaleff** noted that the other major change restricts participants of EMCC ad hoc committees to EMCC members or alternates.

M/S/C (Barger/Mueller) to approve the Bylaws.

VIII. EMCC Annual Report Review

Chair Leng congratulated **Staff Kovaleff** on how accurately the report reflects the work of the EMCC.

M/S/C (Lee/Garske) to approve the EMCC Annual Report.

IX. EMS System Plan – Draft 06/07 Priorities

Staff Kovaleff gave a brief overview of proposed priorities for the upcoming year and indicated that these priorities will be included in the EMS System Plan that will be submitted to the State.

M/S/C (Hoffmann/Barger) to approve the EMS System Plan objectives for the year.

Chair Leng asked to hear Items XIII and XIV next.

IVX. EMS Medical Director's Report

Staff Barger reported that on December 1st the countywide 12-Lead EKG began. This could be a highly effective program in reducing mortality rates for certain kinds of heart problems. The next step will be to develop a system to include the hospitals, which he anticipates will happen by mid-2007. EMS is currently working with the Concord Police Department in the creation of a tactical paramedic medical team. Police officer paramedics and EMT-I's will receive special training to be able to care for injured officers or others in unsafe scenes. **Staff Barger** is also working with DOW Chemical to get State approval so that DOW can have certain medications on site to provide emergency medical care workers on scene. In addition, the fire data system is expected to soon be up and functional.

XIII. EMS Director's Report

Staff Lathrop reported that the annual Golden Guardian disaster exercise, in conjunction with a statewide hospital exercise, was held on November 15th. This year's exercise simulated an earthquake on the San Andreas Fault and included the collapse of a Bay Area hospital. During the exercise the Health Department opened a departmental operations center (DOC) for approximately five hours. Health Department personnel has been involved in extensive planning and training this past year and this contributed greatly to the DOC's success. The local Regional Disaster Medical Health Coordinator (RDMHC) program, which manages mutual aid within the Coastal County Region, also participated in the exercise. **Staff Lathrop** stated that the Barbara Center, the RDMH Specialist representing the 16 counties in our region, did an excellent job. The State Operations Center seemed to experience major problems, however, and the Director of the State EMSA, Dr. Aristeiguieta is dedicated to resolving the problems encountered.

Staff Lathrop reported that hospital emergency department diversion has not been approved since the closing of the Doctors San Pablo Emergency Department in September. The EMS Facilities and Critical Care Committee met recently and recommended continuing the “no diversion” policy at least through the winter. It is hoped that elimination of diversion would encourage hospitals to develop effective plans to manage overcrowding.

XII. Doctors Medical Center Status

Gisela Hernández, Doctors San Pablo Community Relations Manager, briefed the Committee on some of the financial challenges the hospital has been facing. Some steps taken to mitigate the financial problems included closing the obstetrics department and eliminating approximately 200 fulltime positions. The new business model is based on the idea that the hospital can achieve sustainability by reducing fixed costs and high-cost services, while improving productivity.

Member Lathrop stated that many on the EMCC were fearful that Doctors San Pablo (DSP) would not survive, and are very thankful that this has not occurred. He recognized Kaiser Richmond and AMR for their efforts during the ED closure. Through the work of Supervisor Gioia, Dr. Walker, local government officials, the hospital district, the State Department of Health, and the California Medical Assistance Commission (CMAC), a decision was made to form a Joint Powers Agreement between the hospital and Contra Costa County. Contra Costa lent the district \$10 million out of county reserve funds, which is guaranteed by the hospital district’s tax revenues. In addition, by leveraging these funds, CMAC was able to obtain a unique federal match of \$10 million. **Member Lathrop** stressed that there are still many challenges, and that this crisis has made it very clear how important DSP is to West County.

Member Gaynor requested that a contingency plan be developed in case of the closure of DSP. **Staff Lathrop** indicated that from an EMS perspective, another ED closure would be handled exactly the way other recent ED closures were managed. A plan to deal with the community’s overall medical care, however, would be beyond the scope of EMS.

XI. Psychiatric Holds in the Hospital

Suzanne Tavano, Contra Costa Mental Health Services, reported that the training film for applying 5150 holds has been reviewed and the post test compiled. One issue identified was that RNs had not been included. The issue of whether Napa will take emergency transfers is being pursued with the State, and the Board Order will need to be modified to include Napa. Ms. Tavano believes that the report can be finalized by the next EMCC meeting.

XV. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – March 14, 2007

- 5150

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

XVI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
EMCC Secretary