

# EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 11, 2003

## MEMBERS PRESENT

John Tysell	District I
Allan Tobias	District II
Pat Barron	District III
Dave Gaynor	District III, Alternate
Guy Scheulke	District IV
Donna McClane	District V
Rod Talavera	District V, Alternate
Paul Freitas	ACCMA
Michael Maas	California Highway Patrol
Brent Finster	Communications Center Managers
Steve Maiero	CCC Fire Chiefs' Assn.
Susan Ancell	Hospital Council of the East Bay
Leslie Mueller	Ambulance Providers (Contra Costa Contract)
Ross Fay	Air Medical Transportation Provider
Joseph Barger	CCC Health Services
Rebecca Rozen	Member-At-Large

## GUESTS

Elizabeth Stallings	John Muir/Mt. Diablo Health System
Peter Voelker	Kaiser North East Bay Ambulance
Laurie Hodgson	Doctors Medical Center – San Pablo
Stuart Buttlair	Kaiser Permanente
Rich Gaut	Kaiser – Richmond
O.B. Toweply, M.D.	Mt. Diablo/JMMC Medical Pavilion
Donald Waters	Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Assn.
Rich Hodge	American Medical Response
David Borghelli	American Medical Response

## STAFF PRESENT

Art Lathrop	EMS Director
Lauren Kovaleff	Program Coordinator
Joe Barger	EMS Medical Director
Bruce Kenagy	Prehospital Care Coordinator
Judy Smith	Prehospital Care Coordinator
Ruth Burke	Q I Coordinator
Pam Hall	Secretary

## MEMBERS ABSENT

American Heart Association	American Red Cross
Communications Center Managers' Assn	Contra Costa Police Chiefs' Assn.
Emergency Nurses Assn	Public Managers' Assn.
Trauma Center	Contra Costa Sheriff-Coroner

MEMBERS ABSENT cont.

CAER

Emergency Department Physicians

Private Provider Field Paramedic

Second Vice-Chair

Base Hospital

EMS Training Institution

Public Provider Field Paramedic

- I. Introduction of Members and Guests  
Meeting was called to order by Chair John Tysell at 4:00 p.m. Meeting attendees made self-introductions.
- II. Approval of Minutes  
M/S/C (Mueller-Schuelke) to approve March 2003 minutes.
- III. Comments from the Public  
None.
- IV. Chairperson's Report  
Chair advised committee that the Brown Act information has to be distributed and gone over by the members of all county advisory bodies by the end of the year.
- V. Member Reports  
Paul Freitas requested 20 minutes to present his case for reinstatement of ER physicians' capability to issue 5150 holds. --- This is an item later in the agenda.  
  
Rod Talavera made the suggestion that EMS look into linking to sites that have related information.  
  
Dave Gaynor brought up quality of Fitch study. – This item will be held till that report is an agenda item.
- VI. Officer Nominations to Serve 10/1/03 – 9/30/04  
Nominating Committee: Leslie Mueller, Rebecca Rozen and Captain Mike Mass presented the nominees and opened the floor for any additional nominations. The EMCC M/S/C (Maiero/Fay) to accept the nominated members by acclamation as each position had only one nominee. The new officers and executive committee members are:

John Tysell, M.D.	Chair
Donna McClane	First Vice-Chair
Guy Schelke	Second Vice-Chair
Paul Freitas, M.D.	Member-At-Large
Rebecca Rozen	Member-At-Large
- VII. Emergency Department Ambulance Diversion  
Distributed and discussed report of diversion hours shown by year.

VIII. 3-1-1 Non-Emergency Number

The 3-1-1 phone number is designed to take 9-1-1 non-emergency calls. There currently is no funding available. The setup is very costly, a complete 9-1-1 replication is necessary.

IX. Psychiatric Hold Procedures

Along with Dr. Freitas, there were several doctors, nurses, and other hospital personnel from various facilities in the county in attendance to give information and opinions of the seriousness of the recent surprise decision of the County Board of Supervisors to change the procedure for placing 5150 holds. In Contra Costa, as well as most other counties, ER Chief Physicians and their designated personnel have historically placed 5150 holds. The recent decision made the county Mental Health Division the only agency able to place those holds with the other hospitals' staff now only able to request those holds.

Information and discussion: a) Distributed list of California counties that allow emergency doctors to write 5150s. b) Some counties require training for personnel to receive approval to write 5150s. In the last couple of years Mental Health conducted committee meetings looking at this option and drawing up procedures. c) It was generally felt that this revised procedure reduces the standard of care and that it is not the standard of care in the Bay Area. Kaiser, the only other psychiatric receiving facility in the county, feels that this will hamper care. d) The ACCMA and ER doctors have requested a meeting with Mental Health Administration.

EMCC M/S/C (12/2) to draft a letter to the Board of Supervisors recommending reinstatement of ER Director's and their designates' ability to place 72 hour psychiatric holds in accordance with Welfare & Institutions Code 5150.

X. EMS Director's Report

a) With Dr. Barger and Shawn Casey, made a presentation at the Board of Supervisors meeting promoting EMS Week and the American Heart Association Public Access Defibrillation Program.

b) Richard Keller, Fitch and Associates, was at the last EMCC meeting to report on status of ambulance project. He will be giving updates at future meetings as well. Will be making the recommendation to extend the current contract in order to gain time to go out to bid without providing additional county funding. Mr. Gaynor raised the question of what are the benefits of extending the current ambulance contract: 1) gaining the time to go out to bid, 2) allowing fire as first responder to increase capabilities 3) allow evaluation of response times 4) time for evaluation of

staffing. The plan is expected to be ready to go to the Board of Supervisors by September. There were no competing bids the last two times the ambulance permit went out to bid

XI. &XII. Medical Director's / Medical Advisory Committee Reports

Has been working on Helicopter Utilization

Now getting good data from AMR's new reporting system.

Committee has also been involved in Public Access Defibrillation, which is really starting to gain a lot of interest and support.

XIII. Facilities/Critical Care Committee Report

Committee has been working on hospital. The hospitals have been focusing on patient flow throughout the hospital with good results.

XIV Next Meeting Agenda Fitch & Associates Update Presentation

XV. Adjournment

M/S/C (McClane/Maiero) to adjourn at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Hall  
EMCC Secretary