



Sonoma County Emergency Medical Care Committee



*Bob Norrbom, Chairperson
Brian Henricksen, Vice Chairperson*

General Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 26, 2021, 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Virtual meeting by WebEx

Members Present: Stephen Akre, Linda Anderson, Todd Axberg, Mike Bates, Brian Henricksen, Steve Herzberg, Mark LaGrave, Jim Levy, KT McNulty, Bob Norrbom, Jeff Schach, Fred Seydel, Brad Silvestro

Members Absent: Tim Aboudara, Dave Smith, Mike Bates

Others Present: Jen Banks, Bryan Cleaver, Kristina Griffith, James Salvante, Carly Sullivan, Joanne Chapman, Evan Dilks, Willow Farey, Erin Olson, Steve Suter, Ambrose Stevens, Ben Gould, Doug Williams, Evonne Stevens, Janet Uhde, Jeff Cress, Mark Luoto, Michele Lawrence, Patrick McAlpin, Paul Ricci, Sean Sullivan others possible not recorded.

I. Welcome and Introductions

12:31 call to order.

II. Approval of Minutes from October 2020 meeting

One change. Sonoma County to Sonoma Valley in reference to Brian Cyr taking over for Bob Norrbom Brian Henricksen – approved, Jim Levy second

III. Public Comment Period

Bob Norrbom - annual report done. Looking for guidance on where to go with it next. Recommendation is sharing with members and then add to next agenda.

IV. New Business

1. Trauma designation and aircraft update

Jen Banks reports out. Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital will have new contract as trauma center, 12 year total with extension opportunities. No additional interest by other hospitals in Sonoma County

Comment – Steve Suter asked about aircraft update, Quarterly subcommittee meetings have resumed. Adding EMS aircraft sub-committee report out to agenda MAC group.

2. State regulatory exemptions ending.

James Salvante - State ending Sept 30 exemptions for COVID. Some items EMT skills verification form will be required effective October. Clinical hours will be required again. Local optional scope of practice (SOP) based on COVID coming to an end. Extension possible for some SOP items including, EMT and Paramedic vaccination, PCR testing and swabbing done by paramedics. No extension for non-prehospital site based work.

3. Meeting location moving forward

Location not currently available to us. If others have locations available please let us know. Steve Suter, location may be available at EOC.

4. APOT

Lucinda Hammond - report out.

Statistics on Quarter 2, Comparison of 2020 to 2021 by month, Overall by week, by hospital, by day for proportion of calls of 20 minutes.

Comments – Bob Norrbom most everyone doing ok, except Sutter, these times effect whole county. Not sure what the answer is but would like to help try to solve problem.



Sonoma County Emergency Medical Care Committee



Brian Henricksen- these numbers are significantly impactful to whole system. AMR is putting extra BLS units out to try to help situation but this won't solve problem. Working on plan to use BLS crews to relieve ALS crew in emergency department so ALS can get back in service. Can Cinda identify specific hours in the day or days of the week, that wall times are longest? This would help with resource planning. Alternatives outside EDs need to be identified.

Steve Hertzberg and Chris Ottolini agree regarding consequence on entire system but particularly in rural areas where resources are limited. Discussed paramedic discretion on transport.

Mark LaGrave - conversations need to happen about looking outside ER for systems in place that allow paramedics judgment to not bring patients to ER in the first place. Parallel discussions regarding alternatives to ER transport need to be happening.

Steve Suter - would like to see the numbers that reflect over 60 minute wall time. What discussion is going on as to what are the causes and what are the next steps to solutions?

Bob Norrbom - Sutter seems have the biggest issue, can we figure out why?

Wendy Thomas from Petaluma Valley - nursing shortage is a big issue for them, offloading times are highest she has seen in 20 years. Should be working on mental health patients should go straight to CSU, staffing shortages and issue, additionally efficiency is less due to PPE needed for triage, no availability of traveling nurses or cost too much. Measure O needs to be addressed. County designated money needs to be identified and utilized.

Coast Life Support is in process of trying to develop community paramedic program that would incorporate mental health and substance abuse screening.

Brian Henricksen - community para-medicine may be part of solution. Interested in partnering with transportation perspective. Where patients are going. AMR selected for CMS ET3 programs.

Steve Akre - regarding measure O, a request has been made to set up a meeting with Tina Rivera and Dr. Baldwin and CVEMSA to meet with representative from County Fire Chiefs and Brian Henricksen discuss measure O money.

Erin Olsen - reducing number of IVs placed, making patients more triage ready from the field. Can we identify the triage patients from the field? If this is something that would benefit other hospitals?

Kaiser perspective – charge nurses are aware of effect of wall time and would be able to get patients out sooner if they didn't need IV. Their job to mitigate risk from whole department perspective, wall times are not punitive, trying to mitigate all patients in department.

James – we are all feeling the pain of this situation. Appreciate everyone's perspective and work to mitigate when they can. The data is here to provide more than just anecdotal information, not designed to make anyone look bad, but to provide clear issues to present to leadership. We are working on showing leadership data to identify issues. This is just one part of a process.

Dr. Baldwin comments about planned meetings, we are sharing information with DHS leadership and behavioral health. There is more than one thing that is contributing to what is happening, so conversations with community partners are needed. Answer to money from Measure O are not coming from Public Health. Working with Behavioral Health and DHS leadership to resolve issues. There are multiple issues not just ED wait times that are issues. All these things need to be addressed.



Sonoma County Emergency Medical Care Committee



Lucinda adds information to graph to show it a system wide problem. Primary impressions will be added. Lucinda and Carly Sullivan have discussed taking numbers to the CQI group to look extended offload. Doing analysis we are looking for clusters on specific days, starting to pull that information and looking at it.

5. Bob Norrbom appointment to District 1 Representative
Vote for ambulance representative – Two nomination Brian Cyr with Sonoma Valley Fire and Sean Sullivan with Life West. 7 votes for Sean Sullivan, 5 Votes for Brian Cyr, Sean Sullivan voted in as ambulance representative.

Coastal Valleys Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency

- Sonoma County EMS Ad Hoc Committee
James Salvante, See RFP comments.
- RFP Update
Still in negotiations process with state for approval. Ad Hoc committee will determine if any State changes prompt it going back to Board of Supervisors. Will provide additional information if major change happens before next EMCC
 - No comments.Policy Development ALS first responders, process for approving ALS first responders looking to increase their level of service to Paramedic working with Sonoma and Mendocino counties, MOU sample and policy draft sent to workgroup, if there are any agency that would like to have copies of the draft James will send.
 - No comments.
- PHP
Carly Sullivan – No statewide exercise planned for 2021, county looking for new coordinator. Finally up to full team in preparedness. Preparedness team is working on grants.
 - No comments.
- Mendocino Update
Jen Banks – College of the Siskayous has a paramedic program starting, with waitlist for fall program. Renewing Cal-Fire contract, 5 year contract to consolidate fire and EMS dispatch services. Completing Adventist health contract is going to board as Level 4 trauma facility. Bob Norrbom – Where is college program being held? – Ukiah main campus – In person. Register and program inform though College of the Siskayous.
- MAC committee
Mark Luoto – Policy review discussion, if you have interest in meeting contact Mark Luoto or Carly Sullivan. Joanne Chapman shared CARES report – 2020 report shows more out of hospital cardiac arrest, however Coastal Valleys remains a leader in California with outcomes. Anyone with good information regarding how to improve please join the meeting.
 - No comments.

V. Standing Items –

- Save Lives Sonoma
KT McNulty, no meeting has been had, so no report
- REDCOM
KT McNulty, no updates, putting out survey to ascertain what information the committee would like to hear most.
- Fire Chiefs report



Sonoma County Emergency Medical Care Committee



Steve Akre – Consolidation of Forestville into Sonoma County Fire Department has happened so now ALS. BOS took action last week to provide revenue trying to secure financial and service sustainability for those districts.

No comments.

- BOS district rep update

Fred Seydel– Nothing to add

Linda Anderson – appointment for third district, looking for an appointee that will add some balance to committee.

Steve Herzberg – Supervisor is very involved with EMS Ad Hoc committees.

- Hospitals

Mark LaGrave – Anything that is proactive and positive to help with APOT is welcome.

- Ambulance providers

No report

- Training program

Coast life support – just completed class hoping to do fall class but do not have resources.

Looking at revamping training department with potential to hire and expand training capabilities.

SRJC – Jeff Snow retiring, Art Hsieh taking over faculty coordinator roll, for fall semester. New administrative assistant, Georgia Pedgriff x2921, coordinating stakeholder’s needs. Working on getting students back into clinicals. Paramedic academy on hiatus for fall, starting to take applications for January academy in next two weeks. Information on process will be out shortly. Doing better this year, most paramedic’s students are ready to start working in the next few months.

No comments.

VI. **Agenda Topics for Next Meeting**

BH – APOT as standing item – “Old Business”

VII. **Announcements and Items from the Membership**

No comments.

VIII. **Adjournment – 1:55**

Fred Seydel moved to close – Jeff Schach second.

NEXT MEETING-October 25. 2021

TBD: Webex

EMSA Legislative Link: http://www.emsa.ca.gov/legislative_activity