



Sonoma County Emergency Medical Care Committee



*Bob Norrbom, Chairperson
Jeff Schach, Vice Chairperson*

General Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 25, 2022, 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Virtual meeting by WebEx

Members Present: Stephen Akre, Steve Herzberg, Mark LaGrave, Jim Levy, KT McNulty, Bob Norrbom, Jeff Schach, Sean Sullivan, Brian Cyr, Tim Aboudara, Nathan DeVardo, Fred Seydel

Members Absent: Jeff Snow, Linda Anderson – Resigned, JohnRey Hassan – No longer doing Sonoma County, Todd Axberg resigned.

Others Present: Jen Banks, Bryan Cleaver, Kristina Griffith, James Salvante, Carly Sullivan, Joanne Chapman, Ryan DeHart, Chris Ottolini, Ambrose Stevens, Bronwyn Golly, Patrick McAlpin, Doug Williams, Matt Windrem, Karri Pierson, David Bynum, Megan Rosecrans, Bill Adams, Toney Gossner, others possible not recorded.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Called to order at 12:32

II. Approval of Minutes from October 2021 meeting

Tim Aboudara moves to approve, Steve Akre seconds

III. Public Comment Period

- Steve Suter talks about In Response unit, responding to people with mental health issues instead of Law Enforcement. Immediate response with follow up on care for mental health emergencies. Successful program so far.

IV. Old Business

1. Compliance Committee – Has not met, Kristina Griffith will set up email with committee to coordinate first meeting.
2. EMCC bylaws and member selection - Vote to approved updated bylaws to be sent to BOS. Steve Akre has concern regarding new member bringing numbers to even which may cause an issue with decision making. As there is rarely an issue with all members being available the committee felt there would not be an issue. Steve Akre suggests adding another at large to get EMCC back to odd numbers. Look for an additional consumer group to add. Per Roberts Rules the chair would not vote until the need to break a tie.
Motion to vote Jeff Schach, Jim Levy second.
10 votes all approved updating By-Laws.

V. New Business

1. NAEMD and Tiered response. – Ken Tasseff presents County position. – County will provide explanation of what is going on with Tiered response including background of how we got here. During development of 2019 EMS ordinance update there was discussion about including language that preserves ability to implement tiered response and final approved ordinance includes that ability to implement. Current approved RFP includes language indicating County's intent to implement tiered response, requiring all proposers to include in their plan for implementing this. RFP was rescinded due to timing of implementation per a proposers' conference stating that supply chain issues and labor challenges would make it not possible for a three month turn around. RFP was rescinded to be reissued within a year. Concurrent with



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the RFP being rescinded an extension to the current EOA contract was proposed. The County and AMR agreed to a contract extension of approximately 18 months, included in the contract extension AMR needed tiered response implemented to better serve community of term of the extension. With input from Dr. Luoto it was agreed that tiered response would start on July 1st.

James Salvante and Mark Luoto present - Moving to a system that does not send a code three every time would be a benefit to the most people for the most affordable cost. Establishing a framework to do this is different than establishing which resources get sent, this is a medical decision. We are at the beginning of the process. We are not cutting stakeholders out of process. Stakeholder input will be requested for determinants of resource. This process is just in the beginning stages and will be treated like any other policy development process with all medical decisions coming from the physician. Mark Luoto states this conversation is long overdue. Two portions of response – full utilization of our current dispatch center and developing minimum safe response, coudcous implementation is needed. Not excluding any agency from a higher level of response. Too important a process to not have collaboration on what is safe.

Ken Tasseff - Special Memo procedure was necessary for timeline. DHS is asking for two-person advisory group from EMCC to help with July first implementation.

Scott Westrope Fire Chief city of Santa Rosa – Read statement - Deep concerns about lack of input from stakeholders.

Steve Suter – Concerns and disappointment about rollout of special memo. Wants to know how it will work in BLS ambulance is dispatched and it turns into an ALS call? Would like a lot more involvement from stakeholders group.

Tim Aboudara – Read prepared comments. Not opposed to tiered response, but is opposed to being hasty with the transition. Talking about a fundamental way to provide services in the system. Is not comfortable giving his approval for roll out as is. Not enough stakeholder input. No reason to change how EMS is provided as part of contract negotiations.

Mark Luoto stressed his belief that a successful implementation could only occur in collaboration with system partners, and expressed his support for an ongoing engagement process prior to making any changes.

Follow up answer to comments about contract negotiations – Ken Tasseff gave his background as a negotiator. He made it clear that he had no previous relationship with AMR and his negotiation was above board and no strong arming occurred. This will be a slow rollout.

Tuck Bierbaum - It is important to separate temporary tiered response necessity for AMR contract from future RFP that may or may not include tiered response. Important to spend time thinking about process. There are other ways to support AMR through extension period. Would suggest it not be implemented on July 1st, but that a working group be created to get through the next 18 months.

Steve Akre – Feels the County has not communicated with this group, feels this meeting should have happened months ago. An issue effecting patient care should not be decided by contract. Tiered response is not in REDCOM strategic plan. Not opposed but needs to be done correctly. Concerned about the number of districts in EOA 1 do not have ALS first response. If this is not vetted correctly outside agencies will be much more impacted. Supports expanded sub-committee.

Tony Gossner – Agrees with previous comments. Trying to stand up ALS system, and doesn't understand why it is so hard to stand up ALS system, but tiered response can go through. Would like Stakeholders to get in a room to discuss. Trust issues with county.



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Nathan DuVardo – Supports move to tiered response. BLS is underutilized. Would like there to be better collaboration. Important to address statements about retention issues made by others. There is a staffing issue not a retention issue, severe challenges getting people in the door. Not a decrease in service. Not a decrease in ambulance, but likely an increase, and better use of resources. Education and CQI and proper EMD determinants, need to be a significant part of the conversation.

Mark Heine – Looking forward to collaborative process. Happy to put people on the Fire Chief agenda to discuss this. Not happy that County of Sonoma leadership is saying Sonoma County Fire District endorsed this. This is not a true statement. There was mutual agreement that a fundamental policy development process needed to take place prior to implementation.

Tim Aboudara motions that EMCC sends a letter stating EMCC **does not endorse** the proposed extension with AMR so long as it contains Tiered response, Seconded by Steve Herzberg.

Ken Tasseff explains that AMR would not have signed agreement without Tired response. Tim Aboudara reads a pre-created letter to not endorse.

Members vote on sending letter to Board of Supervisors Not Endorsing Tiered Response.

Yeas - Fred Seydel, Tim Aboudara, Steve Herzberg, Jeff Schach, Jim Levy

Nays – *Sean Sullivan, Nathan DeVardo, **KT McNulty

*Sean Sullivan - Question if agenda item was information only or were they asking for a vote
Answer from county - was only looking for subcommittee persons, not an endorsement vote.

** KT believes that EMCC is voting on something that is not agenized. The action to provide a position statement was not on the agenda.

Abstain - Mark Lagrave

The yeas have it.

Ken Tasseff asks for stakeholder input on tiered response implementation before sending to Board of Supervisor by Department of Health Service. DHS is asking for 2 people from EMCC.

Tim Aboudara and Bob Norrbom motion to create adhoc, Herzberg seconds.

Steve Akre questions how many people should be on AdHoc. Steve Herzberg feels there should be more conversation regarding what the adhoc discusses. Ken Tasseff makes it clear County is looking for two people only to add to an already established working group regarding this issue. 5 person group is proposed for a separate EMCC sub-committee that will then provide 2 people to the County Ad-hoc.

Vote

Yeas – Fred Seydel, Tim Aboudara, Jeff Schach, Steve Akre, Mark Lagrave, Nathan DeVardo, Steve Herzberg, KT McNulty, *Sean Sullivan

Nays - None

*Sean Sullivan – Questions why 5 is not acceptable, K Tasseff responses no group is going to have more then 2 representatives on the working group.

AdHoc – Representation from each group to include – 1 public provider – Jeff Schach, 1 private provider – Nathan DeVardo & Sean Sullivan, 1 receiving hospital – Dr Lagrave, 1 supervisory districts – Steve Herzberg and 1 at large – Tim Aboudara.

Coastal Valleys Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency

- Sonoma County EMS Ad Hoc Committee Email details
- RFP Update – Email details if any
- PHP – Email details if any



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- Mendocino Update – Email details if any
- SRMH trauma agreement Email details if any
- MAC committee Email details if any
- APOT – Lucinda gives comments.

VI. Standing Items –

- Save Lives Sonoma – KT new president, had meeting – opening on SLS governing board
- REDCOM – email response
- Fire Chiefs report – no comments
- BOS district rep update – no comments
- Hospitals – no comments
- Ambulance providers – no comments
- Training program
 - CLSD – no comments
 - SRJC – no comments

VII. Agenda Topics for Next Meeting

Suter – information meeting to discuss In Response.
Member sworn in.

VIII. Announcements and Items from the Membership

In person meetings will start in July.

IX. Adjournment 231 Fred Seydel moves to adjourn Jeff Schech seconds.

NEXT MEETING-July 25, 2022

Location - WebEx

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