



EMSAAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Marines Memorial Club
San Francisco, CA

Monday & Tuesday, December 8 & 9, 2003

6 pm to 10 pm

8am to 12pm

MINUTES

December 8, 2003

1. Welcome and Introductions

Nancy Lapolla convened the meeting at approximately 6pm, with roundtable introductions.

2. Approval of Agenda

M/Lathrop S/Pletz

President Issues

- A. Advocacy for EMS. Nancy reported we were still working on becoming a member of this organization. This group is working at the Federal level on financing for local EMS systems. Michael Frenn wanted to have the Board consider watching the move to form a National EMS branch.
- B. Barbara Pletz presented an addition to the September 2003 minutes which will be added to paragraph 3. This new revenue would be placed in a new fund at the State level, which is to be distributed to the clinics (5%), hospitals (60%), State telephone (.75%), first responder (3.75%). Money would be distributed by the State. The new physician money (30.5%) will be administered by State DHS unless the County applies to administer it and is approved to do so by a new oversight commission. The entity administering physician fund (DHS or County) can be reimbursed up to 4% of the fund. The existing local maddy fund continues to exist unchanged except: There is no longer any administrative reimbursements (the current 10%). The physician (58%) is sent to the State DHS to administer it, unless the County has applied to and approved to administer its own physician services account claims process.

3. Consent Calendar

Motion: Approve agenda as drafted. M/Lathrop S/ Isbell– passed unanimously.

Minutes were pulled off the consent calendar.

Barbara Pletz identified additional information to be added.

Motion to approve Consent Calendar:

M/Lee S/Gunter to approve the treasurers report. Passed

4. New Members

Art Lathrop reported that Jim McPherson is applying for an associate member position in his new position as the Bio-terrorism Coordinator of Santa Clara County. Mark Hartwig, Captain of the San Bernardino Fire Department applied to be a member representing the Southern California Fire Chief's Association. M/Lathrop S/Gunter Approved

5. President Issues (Continued)

B. Nancy has been attending the CCLHO meetings. Nancy handed out a copy of the Little Hoover commission report. She encouraged the group to work closer with the Health officers of their County. The Health Officers have felt there was a disconnect with the local EMS Agencies. Doug Buchanan reported that they are having trouble coordinating with their local Health Departments in coming together as a group. Nancy asked for a copy of Mountain Valley's grant proposal for the HRSA grant.

C. The EMS Authority wrote a letter re: the EMD guidelines and the State Attorney General's opinion regarding these new guidelines. Carol Gunter wanted to know why the EMD guidelines were moved up on the first day of the Commission meeting. Richard Watson stated that the access group wanted this moved up on the agenda due to meeting conflicts.

D. Nancy talked about identifying a policy on how members are assigned to external committees.

E. Nancy wanted to know how the local budgets would be affecting EMSAAC as an organization and how they are dealing with it locally. Nancy wanted this to be covered in the roundtable discussions of the meeting.

6. Roundtable Discussion:

Art Lathrop reported that the State budgeted crisis will not affect their County due to a benefit assessment in their County.

Darlene Isbell reported that the State budget will not affect their funding due to the bio-terrorism and EMS funds. She reports she is 100% staffed.

Jan Ogar reported that ENA is not in favor of the nurse ratio's. She reported that their comments were not accepted in the report. Nationally there is a new director that works in California.

Troy Pederson reported that they have been hit hard with budget cuts. They have lost ½ of a position as well as operating expenses including travel. They had a good report from the auditors of the State EMSF funds. They changed the auditors mid way through the process. Still working on a draft trauma system update. Troy would like to know the impacts of the nurse ratio requirements and how it affects the other counties EMS systems.

El Dorado County is doing fine re: budget impacts due to the State finance crises due to a separate funding mechanism.

Richard Watson reported that Dianna Bonta resigned from the DHS which was effective Friday. No new replacement has been announced. Three new commissioners were appointed, Lou Stone CPF, Dan Sullivan Emergency Communications System from San Francisco and Dr. Eugene Hardin from Los Angeles.

Bonnie Sinz reported that a letter came out regarding AB 430. The finance department wanted to review the process that all EMS agencies used to determine funding. Sacramento County had their review and that it went very well. The Department of Finance is putting together best practices for all trauma systems. Bonnie wanted input on hospitals in California that receives EMS traffic (receiving hospitals) to verify information relating to individual hospitals.

Debbie from Fresno reported that their budget is not looking good at this point. Travel has been cut as well as extra help in their department as well as the Public Health Department.

San Mateo County does not have a significant issue with their budget due to Maddy funds as well as charges to contract providers. Their Public Health Department will experience significant budget cuts. The civil grand jury completed an investigation of the EMS Agency and the report was very favorable to the Agency. This complaint was brought by a local fire department that felt the ambulance contractors were not being held accountable for response times.

Jeff Rubin reported that they are working with CHA go assist with diversion problems due to beds and granting waivers. The manufacturers and suppliers of the flu vaccine are completely out. Local providers may have some left over. Advised to check with the local areas. Flu mist is available but not recommended for children.

Robin Gaw, representing CHW reported that there was a position paper written regarding the nurse ratio's. Their paper is going to Cal ACEP for approval. DHS is not sure how they will implement the new law.

Bruce Lee reported Coastal Valley's budget looks ok at this point. Specialists are leaving the area and they are concerned where ambulances will transport patients.

Dianne Fisher reported the budget is status quo, and they are now implementing performance based contracts. They will also be writing MOU's for the fire departments that transport

patients. They are also asking for a trauma regulation waiver for Arrowhead Medical Center from the State EMSA Commission.

Nor Cal EMS reported that they are a private non-profit organization. They are working with individual boards to update them on what their agency does. They are contacting with an organization in Canada to provide education on the web.

El Dorado County reported that the budget picture is good due to benefit assessments. Public Health Dept. will be having budget issues. They have a county-wide CQI system that is working well with useful information coming out of it. They are also starting their trauma plan update for the State EMSA.

Santa Cruz County reported that they have been requested for a 15% reduction in their budget. They received one last shipment of the flu vaccine which was given to those at risk and first responders.

Santa Clara County reported that they are working on an agreement with other counties re: trauma plans. The EMS Agency will possibly reorganize under the CEO offices to save money. Fitch and Associates will be coming out to do an assessment of their EMS system.

Michael Osur reported that Orange county and Riverside preliminary report completed by the National Heart, Lung Institute in Seattle on public access defibrillation saves lives. The AEDs located in private gated communities do not have a good save rate. The casino's have a good save rate.

Michael Petrie reported that their budget has been cut over the last few years. They do not expect anymore over the next year. They hired a new disaster planner and CQI person to help round out their office. San Francisco is receiving 56 million for domestic preparedness. They will be hiring one to two disaster planners for a multi county response.

Carol Gunter reported that L.A. budget is not good. Clinics have been cut as well as county hospitals. EMS is funded by SB612 funds and is not significantly affected at this point. Measure B is slated to receive approximately 170 mil this year. 18 million went to the private trauma hospitals. 6 million went directly to the Public Health Department for Bioterrorism planning. L.A. County Supervisors are writing a letter to the State requesting an exemption for the nurse staffing ratio's with the public hospitals.

North Coast EMS reported the nurse ratios will cause a big problem in their area.

Mountain Valley EMS Agency reported that their general liability insurance cancelled this morning and that a local ambulance company is suing them for defamation of character.

(SP) Vicki Plannette reported that one county asked them for cuts and other counties are looking at their finances.

Michael Frenn reported that they implemented ReddiNet. They had a successful state-wide drill with all their agencies. They will be doing a functional exercise every other year.

Merced County reported that their funds will be affected due to the loss of VLF funds.

7. Commission Items

Day 1 Commission Items

Proposed EMT Regulations

Issue 1, Chuck Baucom reported that three commissioners have been replaced. He doesn't anticipate anything being pulled from the consent agenda. Commission meeting dates will be discussed. EMT-1 regulations anticipate substantial discussion due to large concerns from CPF.

Issue 2, EMT IV access as an optional skill should be approved.

M/ Gunter S/Fisher Not to support EMT I starting IV's. 4 in favor of recommending against reg. 2 in favor of approving. – Motion Approved

Issue 3, Separating charcoal from EMT 1 Scope: Recommend not separating this from the optional scope. m/Gunter s/Lathrop

Issue 4. Assisting the patient with their physician prescribed devices Section 100063.

M/lathrop S/Pletz to oppose this change. Approved

Issue 5. Skills competency for optional skills. Delete monthly skills and approve every 6 months.

Issue 6. Support not changing.

Issue 7. CPR training as a pre requisite for EMT 1 training. Support

Issue 8. Criminal Background checks to other reasonable requirements. Move to the shall section A-6. Want language change to make it a requirement. M/gunter S/pletz Approved

Issue 9. Do not approve.

QI Regulation

Change language to EMS system quality improvement. Approved

8. Legislative Report

Barbara Pletz reported that nothing has been going on with the current bills due to the Executive order of the Governor.

SB 476 (Maddy Fund) is law in January 2004.

M/gunter S/Pletz Oppose the implementation of triple trailers in California. Carol Gunter will draft the letter to SKAG.

9. 2004 Conference

The conference is scheduled for May 5, 6 & 7 in Lake Arrowhead at the UCLA conference grounds.

Meeting for December 8, 2003 was adjourned at 9:22 pm. The remaining items will be discussed at the December 9, 2003 meeting.

December 9, 2003 Continuation of December 8, 2003 Meeting

Welcome and Introductions: Nancy Lapolla called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

- 1. Bylaws Committee:** Consisted of Barbara Pletz, Michael Osur, Barry Fisher, Pat Tillman

Michael Osur reported that each agency would have a representative (voting) and the Board would be changed to an executive committee. Ethics committee would not be part of the bylaws. The legislative committee would be added to the bylaws. Pat Tillman reported that the changes to the bylaws appear to be within the law and shouldn't be a problem. He also reported that we are a non-profit mutual benefit corporation, which allows our organization to lobby. There was a discussion regarding membership dues and how to change from the current structure to the new structure. No other action taken at the meeting. Final draft will come to March meeting.

2. Membership Dues

Discussion took place regarding the increase of membership dues since individual memberships will be changed to Agency membership.

M/Isbell S/Gunter Increase membership dues to \$500.00 and have the meeting charge included in this amount. The meeting fee will cover one person per meeting. Any additional members at the meeting will pay a separate meeting fee. Approved

M/ Darlene Isbell S/Gunter proposed to change the affiliate fee to \$300.00 which will include the meeting fees for affiliate members. Motion failed

M/Lee S/Isbell \$200.00 for affiliate's and they will pay for individual meals when they attend. Approved

M/Isbell S/Pletz Have Art send out membership invoices that will reflect the new fee structure. Approved

3. EMSAAC Org. & Management Committee

Barbara Pletz reported that there is no new information

4. External Committees

Nancy asked members that are representing EMSAAC on external affiliate committees should provide written updates to the members prior to each meeting. Submit a written update prior to each meeting

5. CMA Liaison Report

Leonard Inch, no report available.

EMSAAC Staffing and Training Comm.

6. Communications Committee

Bruce Lee reported that EMSAAC has determined that a review and improvement of local inter-agency EMS communication capabilities is a high priority. Due to staffing limitations, the State is not in the position to make this an immediate priority. The recommendation is to develop interim needs and recommendations, develop long-term solutions and recommendations. Develop committee structure and membership composition that will result in practical and cost-effective solutions.

7. Paramedic Draft Regulations

State EMSA recommendation to the Commission is to approve the deletion of the various CE categories with the exception of media based CE. The committee that developed this proposed change wanted limits on CE hours for different categories. The State EMS Authority did not make that change in their draft.

M/Gunter S/Isbell The group recommended that this be sent back to the committee for comment. Approved

Not allow the duplication of courses during the licensure period...Support.

Support the recommendation of the 90 day requirement that students must have internship spot.

State EMS Authority Report

Richard Watson reviewed the Executive Order issued by the Governor which puts a stop to any new agreements or service contracts. Richard does not know at this point how this will affect the administration of block grants. EMSA is proposing legislation that will give them the ability to assess fines to paramedics that are being disciplined.

The State data system is back on track and should move ahead smoothly. EMSA was disappointed with the consultant group (IT staff) managing this project. The data software should be on line in April.

Proposed regulations will not be in affect until some time in 2005 due to the Executive order of the Governor.

Miranda Swanson reported that the draft State EMS Plan went out for comment. The format is in line with the current legislation. The back of the Plan has a matrix on how the goals were developed.

EMDAC Joint Meeting

Jan Ogar brought up concerns regarding the nurse staffing ratio. ENA feels there is a better way to achieve the same results without relying on strictly nursing numbers. ENA made recommendations to the State regarding Base Hospitals and ratio's which was not accepted by the State. This new change will have a significant impact on the emergency department. Carol Gunter reported that L.A. EMS Commission discussed the nurse patient ratio's and made a motion to inform the Board of Supervisors that this new regulation would have significant impact on the emergency departments. The Board of Supervisors did request from the State relief from this new regulation due to not enough nurses. Two hospitals in Los Angeles have notified the EMS Agency that they would be closing their Base stations.

Nancy proposed a joint EMDAC and EMSAAC letter to DHS regarding diversion and the nurse staffing ratio.

General Report, External Committees

Jan Ogar reported that this has been a very quiet year. Working on getting public education inserted into the State Plan.

Disaster Preparedness

EMSAAC Disaster Committee Report Nothing new to report

EMS Response to CA Fires

EMS private ambulance system, especially AMR should be commended for meeting the EMS system needs. While fire services suspended their response to EMS calls in order to meet the challenging demand of fire services in responding to these fires.

HRSA Grant Committee Report

Darlene Isbell reported on the new HRSA grant and that the deadline to submit a letter of intent is due December 19th to the State. January 31st. is the deadline for the actual grant application. A committee must be formed to represent hospitals, EMS, health officer and the clinics. There is general concern that the 5% administrative allowance will end up not amounting to any money for the administering agency.

8. General Report, External Committees

Prevention:

Committee update report was distributed to the membership. No action required

System Evaluation and Improvement:

Committee update report was distributed to the membership. No action required

Communication Committee:

Develop committee structure and membership to provide practical and cost effective solutions.

Disaster Committee:

Committee update report was distributed to the membership. No action required

Paramedic Task Force:

Discussion on proposed regulations, no other action required.

9. Future Meeting Dates

~~March 16th in Los Angeles~~

~~June 15th in Sacramento~~

~~September 14th in Los Angeles~~

~~December 7th in San Francisco~~ **Note: These dates were changed at Commission**

Adjourn

**Members / Guests in Attendance
December 8, 2003**

Douglas Buchanan	Mountain- Valley EMS Agency
Diane Fisher	Inland Counties EMS Agency
Barry Fisher	Ventura County EMS Agency
Michael Frenn	Solano EMS Cooperative
Carol Gunter	Los Angeles County EMS Agency
Leonard Inch	Sierra-Sac Valley EMS Agency
Gwen Jones	San Diego County EMS Agency
Bonny Martignoni	Coastal Valley EMS Agency
Nancy Lapolla	Santa Barbara County EMS Agency
Art Lathrop	Contra Costa County EMS Agency
Bruce Lee	Coastal Valleys EMS Agency
Chris LeVenton	Monterey County EMS Agency
John Pritting	Imperial County EMS Agency
Troy Peterson	Marin County EMS Agency
Barbara Pletz	San Mateo County EMS Agency
Dan Spiess	Northern California EMS Agency
Michael Osur	Riverside County EMS Agency

**Members/Guests in Attendance
December 9, 2003**

Douglas Buchanan	Mountain- Valley EMS Agency
Diane Fisher	Inland Counties EMS Agency
Barry Fisher	Ventura County EMS Agency
Michael Frenn	Solano EMS Cooperative
Carol Gunter	Los Angeles County EMS Agency
Leonard Inch	Sierra-Sac Valley EMS Agency
Gwen Jones	San Diego County EMS Agency
Bonny Martignoni	Coastal Valley EMS Agency
Nancy Lapolla	Santa Barbara County EMS Agency
Art Lathrop	Contra Costa County EMS Agency
Bruce Lee	Coastal Valleys EMS Agency
Chris LeVenton	Monterey County EMS Agency
John Pritting	Imperial County EMS Agency
Troy Peterson	Marin County EMS Agency
Barbara Pletz	San Mateo County EMS Agency
Dan Spiess	Northern California EMS Agency
Michael Osur	Riverside County EMS Agency