

**Mountain-Valley
Emergency Medical Services Agency
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2020**

Location: Via Zoom
Time: 9:00 AM
Board Members Present: Gary Tofanelli (Chairperson) – Calaveras County; Jeff Brown (Vice-Chairperson) – Amador County; Terry Woodrow – Alpine County; Jim DeMartini – Stanislaus County
Board Members Absent: Miles Menetrey – Mariposa County
Guests: Alan McNany; Josh Brace; Michael Courtney
Staff: Lance Doyle – Executive Director; Susan Watson – Executive Secretary / Financial Services Assistant

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM by Chairperson Tofanelli with a quorum of four members present.

B. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Watson introduced the participants in the zoom meeting and asked if there were any others on the call who wanted to identify themselves.

C. Correspondence

None.

D. Additions/Deletions, Corrections to Agenda

None.

M/S/C (Woodrow/Brown) To approve the agenda.

Motion Passed 4-0-1

E. Public Forum

None

F. Approval of Consent Calendar

M/S/C (Woodrow/DeMartini) To approve the consent calendar.

Motion Passed 4-0-1

G. Amendment to Ambulance Provider Agreement with Mercy Medical Transportation, Inc.

Mr. Doyle reported this amendment is needed due to ongoing system development and contract development in Mariposa County. The effort is being coordinated with Dr. Sergienko and Supervisor Menetrey. The amendment will not exceed one year.

M/S/C (Brown/Woodrow) To approve the fifth amendment to the Ambulance Provider Agreement with Mercy Medical Transportation, Inc, for service in Mariposa County.

Motion Passed 4-0-1

H. Ambulance Provider Agreement with Escalon Community Ambulance

I. Ambulance Provider Agreement with NORCAL Ambulance

J. Ambulance Provider Agreement with ProTransport-1, LLC

K. Ambulance Provider Agreement with Sacramento Valley Ambulance

Mr. Doyle presented the renewal agreements for Non-Emergency Inter-Facility Transfer Services in Stanislaus County. He noted that Items H, I, J, and K contain the four agreements being presented for approval. There were no material changes made to the agreements. The term of the agreements was increased from one year to three years. Each of these four providers have maintained consistent performance in the present agreements.

Supervisor Brown noted a misspelled word “Annual Rejport” on Exhibit A of the agreement with NORCAL Ambulance.

M/S/C (DeMartini/Brown) To approve the Non-Emergency IFT Agreements for Escalon Community Ambulance, NORCAL Ambulance, ProTransport-1, LLC, and Sacramento Valley Ambulance.

Motion Passed 4-0-1

L. Amendment to Agreement with Doctors Medical Center for Designation as a Level II Trauma Center

Mr. Doyle explained this amendment exercises language in the current agreement with Doctors Medical Center for designation as a Level II Trauma Center that permits an extension of that agreement for three years. Additionally, Doctors Medical Center is seeking designation as a Level I Trauma Center. The Agency expects that new designation to come to fruition prior to the end of the extension.

Supervisor DeMartini noted there were no issues with Doctors Medical Center.

M/S/C (DeMartini/Woodrow) To approve the Amendment to the Agreement with Doctors Medical Center for Designation as a Level II Trauma Center.

Motion Passed 4-0-1

M. Agreement with Memorial Medical Center for Designation as a Level II Trauma Center

Mr. Doyle presented the renewal agreement with Memorial Medical Center for designation as a Level II Trauma Center. The term will be three years and there are no material changes to the existing agreement.

Supervisor DeMartini noted there have not been any problems with Memorial Medical Center.

M/S/C (Brown/DeMartini) To approve the Agreement with Memorial Medical Center for Designation as a Level II Trauma Center.

Motion Passed 4-0-1

N. Agreement with Kaiser Hospital Foundation Modesto for Designation as a Stroke Receiving Center

Mr. Doyle noted the current agreement with Kaiser Hospital Foundation Modesto for designation as a Stroke Receiving Center will term on December 31, 2020. The new agreement is for a term of three years and there are no material changes to the existing agreement. The hospital has been in compliance with their current agreement.

Supervisor DeMartini observed this to be another three year extension as with other agreements addressed in the meeting.

M/S/C (Woodrow/DeMartini) To approve the Agreement with Kaiser Hospital Foundation Modesto for Designation as a Stroke Receiving Center.

Motion Passed 4-0-1

O. Agreement with Memorial Medical Center, Modesto for Designation as a Stroke Receiving Center

Mr. Doyle stated the current agreement with Memorial Medical Center, Modesto for designation as a Stroke Receiving Center will term on December 31, 2020. This renewal agreement is for a term of three years and there are no material changes to the agreement.

M/S/C (DeMartini/Brown) To approve the Agreement with Memorial Medical Center Modesto for Designation as a Stroke Receiving Center.

Motion Passed 4-0-1

P. Agreement with Emanuel Medical Center for Designation as an ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction Receiving Center

Mr. Doyle presented the renewal agreement with Emanuel Medical Center for designation as an ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) Receiving Center. The present agreement will term on December 31, 2020. The hospital is one of three designated cardiac centers and is a very well performing STEM Receiving Center located in Turlock. The new agreement is for a term of three years and there are no material changes to the agreement.

Supervisor DeMartini asked the status of Emanuel Medical Center's efforts to become a Level II Trauma Center.

Mr. Doyle responded the Agency provided some requested data and the hospital was doing an internal business analysis. The Agency will move forward with trauma system assessment regardless of the hospital's decision.

M/S/C (DeMartini/Woodrow) To approve the Agreement with Emanuel Medical Center for Designation as a ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction Receiving Center.

Motion Passed 4-0-1

Q. Stanislaus System Redesign Update

Mr. Doyle discussed the role of FirstWatch for system compliance monitoring, reporting and assessment of penalties if warranted. There has been a delay for six to eight months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Agency was unable to report reliable response time compliance to ambulance providers until later in the year. The agreements allowed for a ninety day discovery period during which period response compliance would be monitored, but penalties would not be assessed. This would allow providers to adjust to the new system design. In discussion with County leadership and the Emergency Medical Services Committee, the Agency would like to offer an extension of the discovery period through all compliance periods ending on or before September 30, 2020. The extension will be accomplished via Agency memo that will be released later today.

R. Amendment to First Responder ALS Agreement in Stanislaus County

Mr. Doyle reported some concerns were voiced by the fire agencies regarding response compliance. The Agency has good visibility for EMS ambulance response, but less visibility of fire response areas. Some of the hard-to-reach areas were accruing high penalties which are an unintended consequence of the system redesign and a situation that is not financially viable for the fire agencies. In agreement with County leadership, this amendment eliminates penalties completely from fire agencies. The Agency will still perform public reporting of compliance. The amendment also redefines the response compliance period as 250 calls rather than monthly as presently stated in the agreements. Finally, the amendment changed the language on equipment restocking allowing fire agencies to develop a mutually agreed upon program with AMR.

Supervisor DeMartini asked if the amendment will cover the length of the agreement through 2024.

Mr. Doyle affirmed the amendment does not affect the term of the agreement.

Supervisor DeMartini asked how close the larger fire agencies are in making their response times.

Mr. Doyle explained the fire agency compliance reports are not completed yet with FirstWatch. However "rough" reports seem to indicate most responses are meeting compliance.

Supervisor DeMartini stated his reluctance to remove penalties, but since fire agencies are different from the ambulance providers in that they only have fixed locations, it is understandable. The Agency can revisit this at a later time if a problem is developing.

Mr. Brace thanked Mr. Doyle for coming out to work with the fire agencies to come up with a solution. He reported just under 92% in October 2020 and just over 92% in November 2020. Modesto Fire Department will take the 90% compliance requirement to the City Council to help gain additional staffing.

M/S/C (DeMartini/Brown) To approve the Amendment to the First Responder ALS Agreements in Stanislaus County.

Motion Passed 4-0-1

S. Amendment to First Responder BLS Agreements in Stanislaus County

Mr. Doyle stated this amendment is for the same purposes as described in Agenda Item R and affects the four basic life support fire agencies within Stanislaus County.

Supervisor DeMartini noted the insurance requirements are at least \$1M.

Mr. Doyle affirmed the insurance requirements were addressed in the agreements and the amendment does not affect that portion of the current agreements.

M/S/C (Woodrow/Brown) To approve the Amendment to the First Responder BLS Agreements in Stanislaus County.

Motion Passed 4-0-1

T. COVID-19 Response

Mr. Doyle reported the Agency has been very active supporting each of the member counties with needs specific to each County. The hospitals are filling up. The EMS system has been pretty consistent and there are some triggers that can lighten the load on providers and emergency departments if needed. There is a meeting today to consider implementing an assess and refer policy that would give paramedics the ability to recommend low acuity patients go to alternate destinations such as a primary care doctor, clinic or advise nurse line rather than going to the hospital emergency department. EMS is active in COVID-19 testing. There is an optional scope of practice for paramedics to administer vaccinations. The Agency is heavily involved in preparations for vaccine distribution in Stanislaus County. There are transport issues with patients going between the hospitals and congregate living situations such as skilled nursing facilities and hotels. Hospitals are having to set up surge area and set up surge tents. In Amador County yesterday there was an issue with prisoners from Mule Creek State Prison being sent to Sutter Amador Hospital rather than San Joaquin General Hospital in San Joaquin County. The Agency worked to resolve this with San Joaquin County EMS.

Supervisor DeMartini asked how soon vaccine will be distributed.

Mr. Doyle noted today's news reports indicated the FDA might grant the Emergency Use Authorization today and vaccine would be in transit shortly afterward.

Supervisor DeMartini asked if the extreme cold storage is an issue.

Mr. Doyle said the hospitals have the deep refrigeration, but the hospitals are not the location of the vaccine distribution. The Agency is working through those obstacles with the County.

Supervisor Woodrow noted the Pfizer vaccine requires the deep refrigeration, but the Moderna is more normal storage.

U. FY 2019/2020 Financial Audit Report

Ms. Watson reviewed the FY 2019/2020 financial audit report prepared by Stroub Thompson Noble. This is the fourth audit of the present five year engagement. This was a thorough audit conducted from August thru October 2020. The auditor found the Agency continues to work within a balanced budget and the Agency's financial reports fairly represent the financial activities of the Agency. There was no evidence of fraud or misconduct. The noted significant deficiencies was that we have inadequate segregation of duties and inadequate internal controls over the creation of the financial reports due to the size of the Agency. The finding also noted the Agency's response that different levels of management oversight are being incorporated into various parts of the accounting processes.

Supervisor Brown questioned what the ambulance fees expense represents.

Ms. Watson described the Agency's fiduciary responsibility and associated accounting for the System Enhancement Funds for Stanislaus County.

M/S/C (Brown/Woodrow To approve the FY 2019/2020 Financial Audit Report.
Motion Passed 4-0-1

V. Farewell Presentation for Supervisor DeMartini

Mr. Doyle presented a farewell plaque to Supervisor DeMartini and thanked him for his many years of service to the JPA Board of Directors and for his support of the Agency.

W. Agency and County Reports

Alpine County – No report

Amador County – No report

Calaveras County – No report

Stanislaus County – Supervisor DeMartini reported the County CEO is concerned about Stanislaus County remaining in the JPA. There is not a Board of Supervisors consensus on this issue and it was opposed by Supervisor DeMartini.

MVEMSA – Mr. Doyle attended Westside Ambulance Board meeting last night. There has been a turnaround in staffing, financially, and compliance.

X. Next Scheduled Regular Meeting

The next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 9:00 AM; Location to be determined.

Y. Adjournment

Chairperson Tofanelli adjourned the meeting at 10:22 AM.