

**Mountain-Valley  
Emergency Medical Services Agency  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
December 13, 2017**

Location: Copperopolis Fire Station  
Training Room  
370 Main St.  
Copperopolis, CA 95228

Time: 9:00 AM

Board Members Present: Terry Woodrow (Chairperson) – Alpine County; Lynn Morgan – Amador County; Gary Tofanelli – Calaveras County; Jim DeMartini (Vice-Chairperson) – Stanislaus County

Board Members Absent: Miles Menetrey – Mariposa County

Guests: Brian Dickson, Alan McNany, Ted Novelli

Staff: Richard Murdock - Executive Director; Katherine Shafer, M.D. – Medical Director; Jim Whitworth – EMS Critical Care Coordinator; Susan Watson – Executive Secretary/Financial Services Assistant

**A. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Chairperson Woodrow with a quorum of three members present.

**B. Welcome and Introductions**

The Chairperson welcomed those present and self-introductions were conducted.

**C. Correspondence**

Emergency Medical Services Authority letter dated November 28, 2017 granting approval for the Agency to participate in a trial study of the use of Ketamine for pain control.

**D. Additions/Deletions, Corrections to Agenda**

M/S/C (Tofanelli/DeMartini) To approve the agenda as written.

Vote: 3-0

**Motion Passed**

**E. Public Forum**

None

**F. Approval of Consent Calendar**

M/S/C (DeMartini/Tofanelli) To approve the Consent Calendar.

Vote: 3-0

**Motion Passed**

**G. MVEMSA Medical Director**

Mr. Murdock introduced Dr. Katherine Shafer as the Agency Medical Director. Dr. Shafer is a full-time emergency physician at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Stockton. She is also a part-time Assistant Medical Director with San Joaquin County EMS Agency. Dr. Shafer worked in EMS prior to attending medical school. She is the Base Hospital Medical Director for St. Joseph's Medical Center and is a member of the hospital's core faculty to recruit new residents. Her interests are in stroke systems of care and paramedic education.

The Board welcomed Dr. Shafer to the Agency.

*Let the record show Supervisor Lynn Morgan arrived at 9:07 am.*

**H. Stroke Receiving Center Agreement with Doctors Medical Center**

Mr. Murdock presented the renewed contract to designate Doctors Medical Center as a Stroke Receiving Center. The present agreement expires on December 31, 2017. The renewal agreement was vetted with the hospital. The Board was asked to approve the agreement and authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract.

M/S/C (DeMartini/Morgan) To approve the renewed agreement to designate Doctors Medical Center as a Stroke Receiving Center and authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract.

Vote: 4-0

**Motion Passed**

**I. Stroke Receiving Center Agreement with Memorial Medical Center**

Mr. Murdock presented the renewed contract to designate Memorial Medical Center as a Stroke Receiving Center. The present agreement expires on December 31, 2017. The renewal agreement was vetted with the hospital with minor changes made to the reporting responsibilities and signatories. The Board was asked to approve the agreement and authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract.

M/S/C (Morgan/DeMartini) To approve the renewed agreement to designate Memorial Medical Center as a Stroke Receiving Center and authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract.

Vote: 4-0

**Motion Passed**

**J. Stroke Receiving Center Agreement with Kaiser Hospital Foundation**

Mr. Murdock presented the renewed contract to designate Kaiser Foundation Hospital, Modesto as a Stroke Receiving Center. The present agreement expires on December 31, 2017. The renewal agreement was vetted with the hospital. The Board was asked to approve the agreement and authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract.

M/S/C (DeMartini/Morgan) To approve the renewed agreement to designate Kaiser Foundation Hospital, Modesto as a Stroke Receiving Center and authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract.

Vote: 4-0

**Motion Passed**

**K. EMS Aircraft Services Authorization Agreement with Sierra Emergency Medical Services Allisance (SEMSA)**

Mr. Murdock described the partnership between Air Methods and SEMSA to provide EMS aircraft services in Mariposa County. Air Methods owns the helicopter. SEMSA, doing business as "Riggs Ambulance," provides the medics and clinical care. The arrangement was vetted through Agency legal counsel, Derek Cole, who recommended the Agency develop a separate agreement with SEMSA due to the liability of clinical practice. The Board was asked to approve the agreement and authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract.

In Board discussion, Supervisor DeMartini asked why the term of the agreement began January 1, 2017 but is just now coming to the JPA Board for approval. Mr. Murdock responded the terms match the agreement with Air Methods, but that SEMSA did not begin providing service in Mariposa County until May 2017. The SEMSA contract was created to cover the clinical care liability piece of the air ambulance service.

Supervisor Tofanelli requested this agreement and future agreements include the JPA Board of Directors be added as an additional insured.

Mr. Murdock reviewed the air ambulance changes that occurred in 2017. PHI remains based at Modesto Airport. CALSTAR has a base at Memorial Medical Center. Air Methods left Memorial Medical Center and has a base in Merced. Ultimately, the helicopter from Merced is now based and operating in Mariposa County.

Dr. Shafer shared the Agency has control over what the paramedic does, but has no control over the flight nurses. She encourages additional education when complaints are received from the hospitals.

M/S/C (Tofanelli/Morgan) To Approve the EMS Aircraft Services Authorization Agreement with SEMSA and authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract.

Vote: 4-0

**Motion Passed**

**L. Non-Emergency Ground Ambulance Service Agreement with Sacramento Valley Ambulance**

Mr. Murdock presented the agreement with Sacramento Valley Ambulance to provide non-emergency ground ambulance service for inter-facility transfers into and out of Stanislaus County. Sacramento Valley Ambulance will be able to provide Basic Life Support, Advanced Life Support, and Critical Care Transports. They will perform inter-facility transfers only and will not be a part of the 9-1-1 system.

Mr. Murdock discussed the application process, noting that ground ambulance contracts involving Stanislaus County are usually approved by the Stanislaus County Emergency Medical Services Committee (EMSC) prior to being presented to the JPA Board. However, due to calendaring, the EMSC meeting will occur tomorrow on December 14, 2017. The Board was asked to approve the agreement contingent upon approval by the EMSC, and to additionally authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract.

In Board discussion, Supervisor Tofanelli asked about the tracking process for inter-facility transfers. Mr. Murdock explained that inter-facility transfer surveillance in FirstWatch is a future project. The Agency is currently working to complete the interfaces needed to have emergency 9-1-1 compliance throughout the region.

Supervisor Tofanelli also noted an inconsistency in the contract term between page 4 and page 30. This will be corrected to show a one year term before the agreement is signed.

M/S/C (Morgan/DeMartini) To amend section 9.1.G to read one year, and to approve the Non-Emergency Ground Ambulance Service Agreement with Sacramento Valley Ambulance as amended; contingent upon the approval of the Stanislaus County Emergency Medical Services Committee; and authorizing the Executive Director to sign the contract.

Vote: 4-0

**Motion Passed**

**M. Ketamine for Analgesic Use**

Mr. Murdock described the Agency's role in developing curriculum for the Ketamine study and explained that the policy to use Ketamine as an analgesic was approved by the EMS Medical Directors Association of California (EMDAC) sub-committee.

Mr. Whitworth discussed the clinical usage of Ketamine. The pilot project will be conducted throughout the State. A tracking sheet and medical dosage sheet are being developed to be distributed to the providers. Four providers in Stanislaus County and Mercy Medical Transport in Mariposa County have signed on to participate in the study. All uses of Ketamine will be audited first by the providers, then by the Agency. Any findings will be reported to Dr. Shafer and Dr. Mackey.

Dr. Shafer discussed the administration of Ketamine, the medical parameters for its use, and the advantages in using Ketamine versus narcotic pain medications.

Supervisor Tofanelli noted the review date on the policy is set five years out and asked if the policy will be reviewed prior to that time. Mr. Murdock explained policy review will be performed as needed.

Brian Dickson expressed concern about the limitation of two doses for ground transports and asked if the dosages in the policy could be extended. He felt this policy is fine for metro areas, but cited the challenge for longer rural transports. Dr. Shafer explained the first steps in the study are to demonstrate the current dosing levels are safe and the study needs to be completed before making any dosage adjustments.

**M/S/C (Tofanelli/Morgan) To approve Policy 554.47, Ketamine for Analgesic Use.**

Vote: 4-0

**Motion Passed**

**N. Sutter Amador Hospital Trauma Center Request**

Mr. Murdock reported Sutter Amador Hospital was unable to meet the requirements for Level III Trauma Center designation, so has decided to pursue designation as a Level IV Trauma Center. Once designated, they will gather data for one year then try to upgrade to a Level III center.

**O. FY 16/17 Year End Financial Report**

Ms. Watson presented the FY 16/17 Year End Financial Report, describing the accrual basis accounting and comparing the fund activity to the approved budget. Primary factors in fund activity differences were highlighted. The Agency increased its contingency funds by \$87,804, a 5.8% variance from the approved budget. The Unreserved General Fund value was in compliance with Policy 170.00, Reserve Fund Limits. The Board was asked to approve and accept the draft year-end financial report.

**M/S/C (Morgan/Tofanelli) To approve the FY 16/17 Year End Financial Report.**

Vote: 4-0

**Motion Passed**

**P. Financial Auditing Firm**

Ms. Watson reported the accounting firm of Stroub Thompson Noble was selected to perform the next five annual financial audits. The next audit will be of the FY 16/17 financial records and will begin in January 2018.

**Q. Agency and County Reports**

*MVEMSA* – Emanuel Medical Center is no longer doing cardio-thoracic surgery. Patients will be transferred to Doctors Medical Center.

*Alpine County* – Ski season is delayed as there is no real snow volume at Bear Valley or Kirkwood.

*Amador County* – Two new medical clinics have been opened in Jackson. They are operated by WellSpace and are federally funded clinics that offer integrated medicine, a whole person approach to medicine. Mental health services, drug treatment, pediatrics and pediatric dentistry are also provided.

*Calaveras County* – The contract for Dignity Health to manage Mark Twain Medical Center will expire on December 31, 2017. No new agreement is in place at this time.

*Mariposa County* – Not present.

*Stanislaus County* – The County is looking at opening up the ambulance contracts in pursuit of better service rather than continuing to increase the System Enhancement Fund. Mr. Murdock shared Westside Ambulance terminated their management contract with SEMSA and chose AMR to be their new management company.

**R. Next Scheduled Meeting**

February 14, 2018 at 9:00 AM, Copperopolis Fire Station Training Room

**S. Adjournment**

Supervisor Woodrow adjourned the meeting at 10:24 AM.