

MINUTES
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
January 11, 2022
11:30 A.M.

ATTENDANCE:

Agencies:

Rusty Hotchkiss	California Highway Patrol – Air Ops
Kurt Kindig	American Ambulance – Fresno
Jamie Martin	American Ambulance – Communications
Dave Byl	American Ambulance of Visalia
Lance Hoffrage	Pistoresi Ambulance
Nick Branch	Visalia Fire Department
Cameron Long	Tulare Fire Department
Smokey Beavers	LifeStar Ambulance
Fabian Uresti	Selma Fire Department
Mark Pisching	Sanger Fire Department
Lisa Epps, RN	SkyLife – Air Methods
Brian Mendez	SkyLife – Air Methods
Brian Carnes	SkyLife – Air Methods
Steve Pendergrass	Hanford Fire Department
Aaron Sundstrom	Sierra Ambulance
Justin Milligan	Coalinga Fire Department
Manny Santoyo	Tule River Ambulance

Hospitals:

Amy Campbell, RN	Community Regional Medical Center
Dave Sanbongi, RN	Kaweah Health Medical Center
Mary Jo Quintero, RN	Valley Children’s Hospital
Lieslle Sprague, RN	Adventist Health Hanford
Kris Chatterton, RN	Sierra View Medical Center
Renee Hill, RN	Community Medical Center – Clovis
Nichole Row, RN	Saint Agnes Medical Center
Jennifer Andersen, RN	Saint Agnes Medical Center

EMS Agency:

Jim Andrews, MD
Miranda Lewis, MD
Dan Lynch
Jessica Buehler
Mato-Kuwapi Parker
Dale Dotson
Matt Myers

- I. The meeting was called to order at 11:32 a.m. by Mato Parker. The minutes of the November meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Base Hospital Committee

Dave Sanbongi reported that SkyLife has started carrying blood products on their Visalia ship.

Everything else that was discussed in Base Hospital will be addressed in CQI.

B. Medical Control Committee

Mato Parker reported that Medical Control discussed the intubation refresher training and the new high flow nasal cannula devices that have been put into service in Fresno County.

The weather has been keeping staff busy. Dale mentioned that the only road into Hume Lake was washed out. There are about 300 people at the camp there and they are running low on propane. The EMS agency does have a plan for both air and ground transport if needed.

The Madera Community closure will probably affect the region for a long time. The behavioral health departments are working on a long-term solution for the Madera County 5150 patients. In Fresno County, CSC has agreed to take the Madera County 5150 patients the meet criteria.

Policy 571 will be ending today. Mato will be sending out the special memo for that.

Pediatric i-Gel – We will be getting some data in pediatric i-Gel to Medical Control for discussion.

Ketamine for behavioral emergencies – Currently, there is not a LEMSA in the state that is using ketamine for behavioral emergencies only pain management. We would have to do a trial study to use ketamine for behavioral emergencies. Ketamine is expected to be added to the basic scope for paramedics. We will probably wait for that to happen.

C. CQI Committee

Mato Parker reported that CQI has not met since November 2022. Fresno County did receive 8 HFT150 High Flow Nasal Cannula units to be distributed in the Fresno County system. They are currently being used on the CCT units. The plan for Sequoia, Selma, and Coalinga is to in-service their staff on the use of the machine. We initially discussed putting the machines in the hospitals, but we think that it may be better to place them with the provider agencies. Mato will be contacting those three PLOs and implement a training plan for the new machines.

Tulare County has also purchased three HFT150 units for High Flow Nasal Cannula as well.

Justin Milligan reported that they will be going through the intubation refresher training too.

Amy Campbell asked about how Reedley, Selma, and Coalinga hospitals will know that the providers have HFNC. The ES Agency will be contacting the facilities and let them know that the ALS providers do have HFNC capability. In addition, the Agency will make sure the Communications Center also knows that the ALS providers have equipment to transfer HFNC patients.

D. Disaster Committee

Dale Dotson reported that he and Dan Lynch have been working in the EOC for weather related activities. There has not been a lot going on with the Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC) side.

Planning has been going on for the Tulare County Ag Show. Curtis Jack has been out and is typically involved in the planning process. Dale will get an update on the planning process and communicate with Tulare County OES.

Cameron Long reported that they have been involved in the planning meetings. They are working on the schedule and incident action plan.

Dave Byl reported that the Disaster Medical Services Unit will be available this year.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Adult Endotracheal Intubations

All but one agency has opted in on intubation. Once the provider agency has administered refresher training to their staff, the PLO will submit the attendance roster(s) and completed skills sheets to Mato. After those documents are sent in, they will be clear to resume adult endotracheal intubations. Mato Parker stated that he has not heard from Dinuba, Exeter, or Tule River.

Mato Parker also reported that he and Sal had looked to see if any intubations had been done yet. They found zero instances, but Lance Hofferage reported that he has had two intubations and that they were documented properly. Mato said that they will go back and look again to make sure the database is capturing information appropriately.

Mato Parker asked the EMSOC group to make sure their paramedics are documenting the intubation attempts in the treatment section versus placing that information in the narrative. From a data standpoint, it requires less resources to find the correct intubation info. Dave Sanbongi mentioned that he didn't see a selection for endotracheal intubation in ImageTrend. Mato stated that they would look into that.

In terms of paramedic training, it is the training programs' responsibility to make

sure that paramedic students are being trained adequately regardless of which provider agency that they work for. In addition, Mato also asked the staff in hospitals to provide as many opportunities as possible for paramedic interns to get endotracheal intubation experience. There will be 100% chart review on endotracheal intubations.

Amy Campbell stated that she knew of one failed intubation that was not documented in the treatment section. She will send over the information to Mato regarding the incident.

B. PCRs at Hospitals

Kris Chatterton wanted to remind the EMSOC group that their paramedics are required to upload PCRs to the hospitals upon patient turnover. This has been a recurring issue at Sierra View.

Lieslle Sprague asked if it is possible for the paramedics to scan the FIN number for the patient. This helps this hospital with entry of information into the Medical Record. Currently, some paramedics and EMTs are scanning the FIN number and some aren't. She has been contacting the provider agencies to ask that they scan this number.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Nothing for new business.

V. AGENCY REPORTS

A. Adventist Health – Hanford

Lieslle Sprague reported that they will be sending three students to the MICN class and rotating seven AH-Tulare students through their ED to complete their MICN training.

AH – Hanford has also purchased pediatric pulse oximeters that can be used with the Zoll monitors.

B. American Ambulance Communications

Jamie Martin reported that they have been busy dealing with the road closures due to weather not only in this area, but on long distance transfers too. They have had to change some posting patterns to assist in coverage for Pistoresi because they are having to transport to either Merced County or Fresno County which in turn leaves their area uncovered for longer periods of time.

C. American Ambulance – Fresno

Kurt Kindig reported that they have been busy, but their staffing has been stable.

D. American Ambulance of Visalia

Dave Byl reported that they have been using HFNC on interfacility transfers. They are working with Kaweah Health Medical Center RT to provide HFNC

services. They will also be hosting a train the trainer class on the Invent HFT150 devices next week. The area representative will be coming down to provide that in-service.

E. Coalinga Fire Department

Justin Milligan reported that they will be starting their intubation refresher training soon.

F. California Highway Patrol

Rusty Hotchkiss stated that they can help out in transporting patients from areas that are impacted by the weather.

G. Community Medical Center – Clovis

No report.

H. Community Regional Medical Center

Amy Campbell thanked everyone for being supportive when they had to go on diversion a couple weeks ago.

I. Hanford Fire Department

No report.

J. Kaweah Health Medical Center

Dave Sanbongi reported that they completed a Base Hospital Physician class. There will be BHP interns on the radio and doing ride alongs. They have also hosted some Saint Agnes residents as well.

Dave wanted to thank American Ambulance of Visalia and Visalia Fire Department for their response to a fire on the south campus. They evacuated 16 patients that were ventilator dependent.

Kaweah will have their Joint Commission stroke survey this Friday. What that means is they can talk to anyone in the facility including EMS personnel.

K. LifeStar Ambulance

Smokey Beavers reported that they are getting ready for the Ag show in Tulare. The dates are February 14-16. They will be working with Tulare City Fire in the command center at the Ag Show.

L. Pistoresi Ambulance

Lance Hofferage reported that with the closure of Madera Community, they have been working on increasing staff. They have hired a few EMTs and will start their training soon. They are also buying two new ambulances to increase the numbers in their fleet. He stated that American has been helpful in covering their area as they have had to transport most patient out of Madera County.

Lance also stated that they need to come up with a plan on what to do with their cardiac arrest patients that meet discontinuation of resuscitation in the public. When the field crews decide to transport, Madera County Fire has stated that they will only send one person due to the length of transport. They will be discussing these concerns at Madera County EMCC tomorrow.

Pistoresi has also participated in Active Shooter drills with Madera PD and the High School.

M. Saint Agnes Medical Center

Jenny Andersen reported that they will have a mobile CT trailer near the north wing while they replace the current CT scanner. Jenny will get more information out to the group.

They also had a debriefing on the active shooter incident that happened a couple weeks ago. Their nurse staff will be doing some FEMA training.

N. Sanger Fire Department

Mark Pisching reported that they have completed their intubation refresher training. They have also hired two single role paramedics.

O. Selma Fire Department

No report.

P. Sierra Ambulance

Aaron Sundstrom reported they have been assisting with the Madera Community closure. Aaron asked about providing a way for Sierra to upload PCRs for CSC patients since they do not print their PCRs. They have been sending them by email in the meantime.

Q. Sierra View Medical Center

Kris Chatterton reported that their previous ED Manager quit and they now have an interim manager.

R. SkyLife – Air Methods

Brian Mendez reported that they are full service and have a backup aircraft for H2. He also stated that if any agency would like LZ training, to reach out to him. They have seen decreased flights due to weather. They are implementing new ventilators and also have HFNC capability.

S. Tulare City Fire Department

Cameron Long reported that they will contact agencies directly involved with the Ag Show and provide them with the incident action plan.

T. Tule River Ambulance

Manny Santoyo reported that they had some training with SkyLife and will be hosting a Documentation Certification class on January 24.

U. Valley Children's Hospital

Mary Jo reported that they have been busy and will have some travelers coming in this week to assist. They have also seen more patients presenting with multiple infections (COVID and RSV or COVID and Rhinovirus, etc.). They are also intubating more patients this winter.

They are also concerned with the potential increase in adult cardiac arrest patients coming to their facility.

V. Visalia Fire Department

Nick Branch reported that they have completed the intubation refresher training. They have also put 12 new Lifepak monitors in service and they are still working through 12 Lead ECG transmission issues.

W. Central California EMS Agency

Jessica Buehler reported that they started a new paramedic class this week. There are 32 students in this group. The previous class will start clinical next Monday. They will be at CRMC, SAMC, and VCH.

They also have students that have recently finished internship and pretty much all of them have passed National Registry. Jessica will be working on new preceptors next.

Dr. Lewis reported that she will be working on reviewing intubations.

Dale Dotson would like to thank everyone in helping with the Madera Community situation.

Mato Parker reported that he will be meeting with Dr. Stroh and Dr. Lewis soon to go over QIs. There are some good opportunities for education outside of the EMS system.

VI. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:28 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2023.