

MINUTES
TRAUMA AUDIT COMMITTEE
January 24, 2023
8:00 A.M.

ATTENDANCE:

Jim Andrews, MD	Central California EMS Agency
Dan Lynch	Central California EMS Agency
Mato Parker	Central California EMS Agency
Shari Warner, RN	Community Medical Center – Clovis
James Davis, MD	Community Regional Medical Center
Lawrence Sue, MD	Community Regional Medical Center
Jordan Lilienstein, MD	Community Regional Medical Center
Janna Martinez, RN	Community Regional Medical Center
Eliana Troncale	Community Regional Medical Center
Sarah Ellis, RN	Community Regional Medical Center
Vince Ellis, RN	Community Regional Medical Center
Amy Campbell, RN	Community Regional Medical Center
Elizabeth Scarfone, RN	Community Regional Medical Center
Rachel Van Noy, RN	Community Regional Medical Center
Emily Va	Commuinty Regional Medical Center
Frank Martin, RN	Kaweah Health Medical Center
Kathy Milanesio	Kaweah Health Medical Center
Dave Sanbongi, RN	Kaweah Health Medical Center
Laura Stolle	Kaweah Health Medical Center
Sylvia Montes	Kaweah Health Medical Center
Amanda Davidson	Kaweah Health Medical Center
Kris Chatterton, RN	Sierra View Medical Center
Eric Schmitt, MD	SkyLife – Air Methods
Lisa Epps, RN	SkyLife – Air Methods
Brian Mendez	SkyLife – Air Methods
Shannon Castle, MD	Valley Children’s Hospital
Kristina Pasma, RN	Valley Children’s Hospital
Mary Jo Quintero, RN	Valley Children’s Hospital
Lindsay Kifer, RN	Valley Children’s Hospital
CJ Rojas-Noto, RN	Valley Children’s Hospital

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM by Dr. James Davis.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the November meeting were approved as written.

3. MONTHLY STATISTICS

Statistics for the months of November and December 2022 were reviewed.

4. INJURY PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

A. Kaweah Health Medical Center

Frank Martin reported that they were going to do Stop the Bleed at the Ag Show, but that fell through. They did not want to give up the hour spot. Kaweah will be doing penetrating trauma and ag injury prevention instead.

Kaweah is putting on a 5K during Heart Month and they will be doing pedestrian safety. Car seat safety will also be focused on in the next six months.

B. Valley Children's Hospital

Kristina Pasma reported that they will be working with the Rural Indian Health Board and coordinating child passenger safety activities with many of the local tribes. Kristina will be mentoring individuals in the tribes to get the education out there. This is a great opportunity to work with Indian Health which in the past has been difficult to get in to.

Valley Children's will be doing virtual education on a variety of injury prevention topics that have been requested by several community organizations.

Valley Children's has received two grants from Safe Kids Worldwide. There was a booster seat grant that was initiated by Firebaugh PD to assist in getting booster seats into the community. The other grant focuses on distracted driving. Eliana from CRMC will be helping along with Fresno PD and the CHP on the delivery of distracted driver education.

Kristina also met with the Honda Foundation for passenger safety infrastructure. Funding for instructors and equipment to hold classes. The Honda Foundation really liked this project proposal and it is being sent to the Honda USA Board for approval.

Kristina stated that she will be working remotely over next 6 months. She stated that she will have the opportunity to work on some projects that she is excited about. She plans to develop a pediatric home safety curriculum as well as ATV safety curriculum. She will be sharing those products with the region. The final big project will focus more on gun safety outreach.

The car seat safety classes scheduled for March in April will have to be postponed until the fall. There is a great deal of communities interested in hosting these events.

C. Community Regional Medical Center

Eliana Troncale reported that CRMC will have a Medwatch coming out in a couple weeks that will focus on the Start Smart class. Start Smart targets the young driver ages 15-19 and is administered in conjunction with the CHP. This course will be on February 23, 2023 from 6-8 pm at the Community Medical Plaza on Shaw Avenue. The plan is to offer this education on a monthly basis. Eliana is also getting trained in the AARP Drive smart class. The flyer for these programs will be sent out.

Sarah Ellis reported that they have trained 50 people so far in Stop the Bleed. The goal for this year is to train 5,000 people. This should be helped with the Fresno Unified partnership. Sarah thanked Kristina for their participation in Stop the Bleed.

5. OLD BUSINESS

Rachel Van Noy reported that they have been working on getting the Trauma Manager Workgroup meeting together. The challenge is that CRMC, Kern, and VCH all have their ACS surveys coming up. The goal is to have the next

Manager's meeting in March 2023. Rachel is still looking for a place to hold the Regional Committee meeting on April 25, 2023. She's deciding on the best location for this meeting and waiting to find out which location will be available.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. SkyLife Transfers

Dr. Davis stated that they have had two transfers from Saint Agnes Medical Center to CRMC. He asked for some clarification as to why a helicopter was used for a 10-mile flight.

Eric Schmitt reported that they do some of these short transports on occasion. Sometimes it's for pediatric transfers when VCH needs SkyLife's assistance. SkyLife is being called due to the patient requiring treatment outside the scope of practice for paramedics or critical care paramedic. Historically this is done with an ALS unit and an RN from the sending facility. Due to the staffing shortages, facilities may be unable to send a nurse on the transfer.

The first case was back in September of 2022. It was a head trauma patient on an anticoagulant with a subdural bleed. This patient was intubated and on a nicardipine infusion which is outside of the critical care scope of practice. Intubation made the patient ineligible for ALS and the nicardipine infusion required a nurse.

The second case was in November 2022. This patient had a subarachnoid bleed and was intubated. After looking at the case, this patient probably was within the ground critical care scope of practice. It is unknown if CCT was unavailable at the time.

Dr. Davis asked when did intubated patients become beyond the scope of ALS.

Dr. Andrews stated that we do not have nicardipine in the CCT protocols, but it could probably be added. He will look into that. As for the intubated patients, ALS units can transfer intubated patients. Unfortunately, because of COVID, we had stopped intubation. Since we have brought it back, only one agency is not intubating, but American Ambulance will have their CCT paramedics go through the refresher training. It is possible that CCT was unavailable at the time of transfer. Transport by helicopter is an expensive way to go. If this happens occasionally, it is something that we will have to tolerate as long as it is not being abused by anyone.

Dr. Schmitt stated that if they are able to fly, when they get these calls, they will respond and then go to the bedside to see what services will be needed.

Dr. Davis in these instances thought it was a rare and important resource to be used for a very short flight.

There was clarification provided to the group that paramedics can transport intubated patients within the standard scope of practice. Dr. Andrews stated that the scope of practice is fixed by the State of California regulations. There is a little latitude in that he can put medications or procedures in the local scope. The level of care is also selected by the sending physician. In addition, when a helicopter is requested in our system, we send the resource and sometimes there is not a critically sick or injured patient, but we fly them anyways to help

keep the ground resources in their rural areas.

Dr. Sue did mention that air ambulance is a dangerous way to fly. Dr. Schmitt stated that ground ambulance transport is also a dangerous way to drive.

B. Trauma Scene Times

Dr. Schmitt stated that there have been some outlier cases with extended scene times. He went back and looked at that last 6 months. They have had 102 trauma scene responses and the average scene time was 15 minutes 9 seconds with 40% of those patients leaving the scene in less than 10 minutes. Almost 70% of those patients are leaving the scene in under 15 minutes.

Some factors that increase scene times are extended extrication and the transport to the landing zone requiring extra time. There are also a number of cases in which the flight crew did not receive a patient that had vascular access established prior to arrival and the patient had not been packaged completely upon arrival.

There has been a philosophical pivot since SkyLife has transitioned to Air Methods. The standard of care is to provide advanced airway and vascular access on scene as opposed to in-flight. This change has been driven by patient safety metrics.

Dr. Sue mentioned one case in which the flight crew stayed on-scene for 30 minutes when the ground transport time was also thirty minutes. Dr. Schmitt stated that in retrospect, it would make more sense to transport by ground rather than air. The flight crew realized that, and SkyLife-Air Methods has empowered them to help make those decisions on scene.

Dr. Schmitt also stated that the Visalia ship now has blood products which means that all aircraft serving this area has the capability to administer blood.

Dan Lynch stated that there has been a change in the way flight crews are handling their patients. More care is now being done before flight is initiated to the hospital. Dan also said that he appreciates the helicopters launching at the same time as the ambulances are dispatched even though they do have a really high dry run rate.

Dr. Schmitt stated that he appreciates being part of the discussion and this is something they will continue to monitor.

7. SPECIFIC FACILITY/DEPARTMENT ISSUES

A. Community Medical Center- Clovis

Shari Warner reported that they have been very busy. She thanked Sarah Ellis for assisting with Stop the Bleed classes in Clovis/

B. Community Regional Medical Center

Dr. Davis reported that they have been very busy at CRMC.

C. Central California EMS Agency

Dan Lynch reported that the hospitals have been very busy. The County did proclaim an Emergency last week. What that does is to allow us to push harder for additional staffing. We did receive some assistance from a CalMat team, but only 6 out of 16 people on the team were able to assist. Some of this that did come lacked some of the experience required.

There are an incredible amount of patients being held in the ED. About 108 patients at CRMC and SAMC is also holding a large number of admits. We ended up sending a couple ambulances and a supervisor over to SAMC to assist with the staffing shortage.

Madera Community closing doesn't appear to be a direct cause in patients stacking up in the emergency departments. Hospitals across the state are inundated with patients requiring admission.

D. Sierra View Medical Center

No report.

E. Kaiser Medical Center

Reza Beheshti reported that Kaiser is reviewing some of their transfers for accuracy.

F. Valley Children's Hospital

Lindsay Kifer reported that they have seen a decrease in trauma patients due to the RSV winter surge. They have received a lot of travelers to assist with the staffing shortage. They will have their survey on February 8, 2023.

Dr. Castle stated that they have gone from not being able to accept any trauma patients to back to a normal volume of trauma.

G. Kaweah Health Medical Center

Frank Martin reported that Kaweah has been dealing with a high census and a staffing shortage. A lack of case managers is a big factor in patients not being moved out of the ED.

H. Adventist Health- Hanford

No report.

I. Saint Agnes Medical Center

No report.

9. PROBLEM TRANSFERS

There are not any problem transfers to discuss this month.

10. ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2023.