

**Mountain-Valley  
Emergency Medical Services Agency  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
April 8, 2020**

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

**A. Call to Order**

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

**B. Welcome and Introductions**

The Chairperson called the roll of the member counties. All five counties were represented.

**C. Correspondence**

None.

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

There were no additions, deletions or corrections to the meeting agenda.

**M/S/C (Woodrow/Menetrey) To approve the Agenda as written.**

Vote: 5-0

**Motion Passed**

**E. Public Forum**

None

**F. Approval of Consent Calendar**

**M/S/C (Woodrow/Menetrey) To approve the Consent Calendar.**

Vote: 5-0

**Motion Passed**

**G. Amendment to Trauma Center Agreement with Memorial Medical Center**

Mr. Doyle explained the amendment to the current Level II Trauma Center Agreement with Memorial Medical Center is for a period of seven months to December 31, 2020 and will bring the contract term in line with the Level II Trauma Center Agreement with Doctors Medical Center.

Chairperson DeMartini stated Stanislaus County has no issue with this amendment.

**M/S/C (Woodrow/Brown) To approve the amendment to the Trauma Center Agreement with Memorial Medical Center.**

Vote: 5-0

**Motion Passed**

**H. Agreement with Citizens Medical Response for BLS Non-Emergency Ground Ambulance Service for Inter-Facility Transfers in Stanislaus County**

Mr. Doyle presented the agreement with Citizens Medical Response for BLS Non-Emergency Ground Ambulance Service for Inter-Facility Transfers in Stanislaus County. He noted the initial term is for one year as this is a new provider to the MVEMSA region.

Chairperson DeMartini said Stanislaus County has no issue with this agreement.

M/S/C (Menetrey/Tofanelli) To approve the Agreement with Citizens Medical Response for BLS Non-Emergency Ground Ambulance Service for Inter-Facility Transfers in Stanislaus County.

Vote: 5-0

**Motion Passed**

**I. Amendment to Ambulance Provider Agreement with American Legion Ambulance for Service in Calaveras County**

Mr. Doyle reviewed the amendment to the Ambulance Provider Agreement with American Legion Ambulance for Service in the North and South Zones of Calaveras County, explaining it extends the current agreement for a period of six months to December 31, 2020. The extension is needed as there were no bids received for the North and South zones in response to the Calaveras RFP that was released in September 2019.

During the extension period, the response areas will become non-exclusive, but all other provisions of the current agreement will remain intact.

Vice-Chairperson Tofanelli stated Calaveras County has no issue with this extension, and asked if there could be another extension if it becomes necessary.

Mr. Doyle replied an additional extension can be granted if it is agreeable with both the JPA Board and the provider. An effort would be made to minimize the need for additional extensions.

M/S/C (Tofanelli/Woodrow) To approve the Amendment to the Ambulance Provider Agreement with American Legion Ambulance for Service in the North and South Zones in Calaveras County.

Vote: 5-0

**Motion Passed**

**J. Amendment to First Responder Advanced Life Support Agreement with Copperopolis Fire Protection District**

Mr. Doyle presented the second amendment to the First Responder Advanced Life Support (FRALS) Agreement with Copperopolis Fire Protection District for service in Calaveras County, explaining it extends the current agreement for a period of six months to December 31, 2020. There will be changes to the FRALS agreement based on the response to the upcoming second RFP for ground ambulance service in Calaveras County.

Vice-Chairperson Tofanelli stated Calaveras County has no issue with this extension, and asked if there could be another extension if it becomes necessary.

Mr. Doyle replied in the affirmative.

M/S/C (Tofanelli/Brown) To approve the Amendment to the First Responder Advanced Life Support Agreement with Copperopolis Fire Protection District.

Vote: 5-0

**Motion Passed**

**K. Calaveras County RFP**

Mr. Doyle recalled the development, issuance and results of the Request for Proposals for Exclusive Operator for 9-1-1 Emergency Advanced Life Support Ambulance Transport Services for an Exclusive Operating Area (or Areas) within Calaveras County, issued in September 2019. The contract for the East Zone was awarded to Ebbetts Pass Fire District and is currently under development. There were no bids received for the North and South Zones.

Mr. Doyle met with Calaveras County leadership, who agreed to move forward with the process to develop and issue a second RFP for ambulance service in the North and South Zones. EndPoint EMS Consulting met with stakeholders to identify the concerns with the first RFP.

The second version of the RFP contains changes to three main areas of the document:

- Mapping in the wilderness area to help the provider's ability to comply with the response time standards
- Increase in urban response time permitted for an ambulance response without a fire agreement. It was noted there is a typo on page 13 to be corrected from 11:59 to 13:59 for Code 3; and from 15:59 to 17:59 for Code 2.
- Amount of the fines
- Insurance requirements to bring them more in line with Stanislaus County providers
- Calculation method for response time fines to consolidate the zones. Reporting will continue to be by zone.

The RFP has been approved by the State EMS Authority.

The current COVID-19 Response impacts the ability of prospective bidders to prepare a response to the RFP. The Board was asked to approve the release of the RFP, granting discretion to the Executive Director for the release date with a goal of release prior to June 1, 2020. A release date after June 1, 2020 may require additional extensions to the present ambulance provider agreement.

Vice-Chairperson Tofanelli said the RFP has been well reviewed and voiced no objection from Calaveras County. The Executive Director was asked to present to the Calaveras Board of Supervisors in April 2020 for awareness.

M/S/C (Tofanelli/Woodrow) To approve the release of RFP# MVEMSA-2020-3 for Exclusive Operator for 9-1-1 Emergency Advanced Life Support Ambulance Transport Services for an Exclusive Operating Area (or Areas) within Calaveras County, with the response time corrections on Page 13 to change Urban response from 11:59 to 13:59 for Code 3 and from 15:59 to 17:59 for Code 2.

Vote: 5-0

**Motion Passed**

**L. Agency and County Reports**

MVEMSA – Mr. Doyle reported the following updates:

- COVID-19 Response
  - The Agency has been involved with the COVID-19 response since the end of January 2020.
  - Agency operations have scaled back to the COOP Plan essential services.
  - The Agency DOC opened on March 11, 2020.
  - MVEMSA is acting as the MHOAC for the medical/health branch in Stanislaus County.

- Advanced planning efforts have not yet been implemented, but include:
  - A policy for “assess and refer”, which encourages low acuity 9-1-1 patients to contact their physician or a clinic rather than go to the hospital Emergency Department.
  - Plans for a tiered response which would authorize BLS EMT level ambulances to respond to certain low acuity 9-1-1 calls.
  - The Agency is supporting Alternate Care Site planning in all member counties. None of these sites are currently functional.
  - Ambulance volume is currently down approximately 25% across the state; but there have been no lay-offs in the MVEMSA region. If the downturn should affect the providers in our region, then the Agency would look at supportive measures, one of which is to provide response compliance fine forgiveness during this state of emergency. It is not necessary at this time.
    - Chairperson DeMartini asked the reason for reduced ambulance calls.
    - Mr. Doyle cited the current shelter in place restrictions which mean people are not out and about; and/or are afraid to go out. Hospital census is down, but the patient acuity is sicker. The downturns coincide with the timing of the Governor’s order.
- The Agency hired two new employees:
  - Justin Murdock is the EMS Critical Care Coordinator and the Liaison for Amador and Calaveras Counties.
  - Michael Vitro is the Education and Disaster Coordinator

Alpine – The County is weathering the COVID-19 pandemic. There has been one reported positive case in a resident on the east side of the County. There are issues with people coming up to recreate in the snow mobile parks. The County put restrictions on tailgating parties.

Amador – There have been three positive cases, with two of those recovered.

Calaveras – There have been five positive cases contacted outside the County. Two have recovered. Two are being treated outside the County.

Mariposa – The County is struggling economically with the Yosemite National Park closure, but spirits are high and there is good cooperation with the shelter in place order. There are no positive cases in the County. The Health Officer issued an order against people occupying short term lodging to include vacation homes.

Stanislaus – There are 90 positive cases, 1,875 negative tests and no deaths. The economic impact is severe, but people are abiding by the shelter in place order. The County’s retirement system lost 28% of its value as of last week.

**M. Next Scheduled Regular Meeting**

The next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 9:00 AM; Location to be determined.

**N. Adjournment**

Chairperson DeMartini adjourned the meeting at 9:36 AM.