

**Mountain-Valley
Emergency Medical Services Agency
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2021**

Location: Angels Camp Fire Department
1404 Vallecito Rd.
Angels Camp. CA 95222
and Via Zoom for members of the public

Time: 9:00 AM

Board Members Present: Gary Tofanelli (Chairperson) – Calaveras County; Jeff Brown (Vice-Chairperson) – Amador County; Terry Woodrow – Alpine County; Miles Menetrey – Mariposa County; Buck Condit – Stanislaus County

Guests: Derek Cole – Agency Counsel; Brandon Zeledon – Amwest Ambulance; Dennis Brazil – Westside Healthcare District; Clint Bray; Pat Burns – Salida Fire Protection District; Richard Murdock – Stanislaus County Fire Warden; Alan McNany – American Legion Ambulance; Erik Klevmyer – Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services; Josh Brace – Modesto Fire Department; Mary Velasquez – Memorial Medical Center; Kelly Covello – Stanislaus County Chief Executive Office; Supervisor Vito Chiesa – Stanislaus County; Thomas Boze – Stanislaus County Counsel; Michael Courtney – Westside District Ambulance; Megan Zimmerman; Mike Johnson – Ebbetts Pass Fire District; Mary Ann Lilly – Stanislaus County Health Services Agency

Staff: Lance Doyle – Executive Director; Susan Watson – Executive Secretary / Financial Services Assistant; Cindy Murdaugh – Deputy Director; Jim Whitworth – QI/Trauma Coordinator; Mike Vitro – Education and Disaster Coordinator; Tom Morton – Communications and Data Systems Coordinator; Marilyn Smith – Response and Transport Coordinator; Brenda Freese – Certifications and Data Registrar; Amy Diaz – Front Office and Certifications

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Chairperson Tofanelli with a quorum of foommembers present.

B. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Watson conducted a roll call of the JPA Board members and introduced the guests on the Zoom call. Members of the public attending in person introduced themselves.

C. Correspondence

Correspondence is included as part of Agenda Item J.

D. Additions/Deletions, Corrections to Agenda

None.

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

Motion Passed 5-0

E. Public Forum

None

F. Approval of Consent Calendar

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

Motion Passed 5-0

G. Agreement with American Legion Post No. 108 Ambulance Service

Mr. Doyle presented the ambulance provider agreement with American Legion Post No. 108 Ambulance Service for Exclusive Operator for 9-1-1 Emergency Advanced Life Support Ambulance Transport Services for an Exclusive Operating Area within the North and South Zones of Calaveras County. The agreement is the result of the Request for Proposals conducted in 2020 and is a new five year agreement with an option to extend for an additional five years upon approval by the Agency and the Calaveras Board of Supervisors. The Board was asked to approve the agreement and authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract.

H. Amendment to First Responder Agreement with Copperopolis Fire Protection District

Mr. Doyle explained this fourth amendment to the current agreement with Copperopolis Fire Protection District for First Responder Advanced Life Support services in Calaveras County. A new agreement resulting from the 2020 Request for Proposals was presented to the Fire District Board, but there were significant questions and the Board has requested more time to review the new agreement before signing. This amendment extends the current agreement for an additional three months thru August 31, 2021. The Board was asked to approve the amendment and authorize the Executive Director to sign this contractual document.

Mr. McNany noted the contractually required agreement between American Legion Ambulance and Copperopolis Fire Protection District will be delayed until the fire district signs the agreement with Mountain-Valley EMS Agency.

Mr. Doyle indicated the Agency expects to bring the new agreement to the June 2021 JPA Board of Directors meeting.

M/S/C (Woodrow/Brown) To approve the amendment to the First Responder Agreement with Copperopolis Fire Protection District and authorize the Executive Director to sign the contractual document.

Motion Passed 5-0

I. COVID-19 Response Update

Mr. Doyle reported the Agency continues to engage with all of the member counties to supplement the MHOAC program as needed. The Agency is heavily involved with resource requesting in Stanislaus County.

Training for vaccinations has been a major push. Three hundred one vaccinators have been trained throughout the region to help staff and supplement vaccination clinics.

Ambulance staffing continues to be an issue throughout the region. Daily staffing reports are received from AMR.

J. Stanislaus County Notice of Intent to Withdraw from the Joint Powers Agreement

Mr. Doyle presented the two letters of correspondence received after the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors meeting held on March 30, 2021. The first was a letter from Chief Executive Officer Hayes providing for the 180 day advance notice of Stanislaus County's intent to withdraw from the JPA. The second was a letter from the Health Services Agency Managing Director Lilly with the intent to enter into a contract with the Agency to begin July 1, 2021 for an undetermined period of time and to include an option for early termination.

Chairperson Tofanelli shared he had received notification by phone in early March 2021 from Chief Richard Murdock that there would be an action item on the March 30th Board of Supervisors agenda recommending Stanislaus County withdraw from the JPA. Chairperson Tofanelli asked Chief Murdock to also speak with Supervisor Terry Woodrow due to her long service on the JPA Board as well as her knowledge of the previous issues in 2009 when Supervisor County considered leaving the JPA. There were some ensuing conversations among the three of them.

Chairperson Tofanelli met with Supervisor Chiesa, the Stanislaus County Sheriff, a member of the Chief Executive's office; Mary Ann Lilly of the Health Services Agency; Chief Murdock; and invited Chief Mike Johnson of Ebbetts Pass Fire District to attend as well. After discussion, it was understood that there would be a committee formed to go over the issues driving the reasons the County was considering withdrawal from the JPA.

However, the Board of Supervisors meeting on March 30, 2021 yielded a different set of actions. The Agency has some concerns regarding the language in the two letters received versus the wording in the member county contract with Stanislaus County. The current agreement expires on June 30, 2021. A new agreement would need to exist before an early termination could be considered. Chairperson Tofanelli and Supervisor Woodrow met with Supervisor Withrow, who understood the difficult accounting challenges of Stanislaus County withdrawing from the JPA in the middle of a fiscal year due to how the funding works.

The Agency prefers to pursue a committee as planned to clarify all of the issues with Stanislaus County and work on getting them resolved.

Supervisor Condit indicated he thought the County was willing to talk about the issues in this particular situation.

Supervisor Menetrey appreciated the comment from Supervisor Condit and explained he has not been clear on the issues. He recommended Chairperson Tofanelli and Supervisor Woodrow continue representing the JPA in the discussions with Stanislaus County.

Supervisor Brown expressed his disappointment in this situation as the JPA has always looked to the supervisor of the county that has the contract and have traditionally followed what the county is requesting. The JPA has strived to be supportive of every member county. Stanislaus County has had a large stake in the JPA and has been a help to the smaller rural counties. This withdrawal will impact Agency staff and will cause the rural counties to have to figure out to move forward.

Supervisor Woodrow expressed her interest in continuing to work with Stanislaus County to understand the issues and work them out. She noted it would have been good to know the concerns of Stanislaus County prior to the notice of withdrawal. This will be a real disadvantage for the rural counties.

Chairperson Tofanelli thanked Supervisor Woodrow for the work she has done so far to try to mitigate this situation with the Stanislaus County.

Chief Murdock confirmed the differences between Stanislaus County and the Agency have existed over the past fifteen years, and there have been three Agency Administrators in that time period. In the past the differences have been worked through and resolved. The County comprises 84% of the population served, has five hospitals and four ground ambulance providers; and understands support of Stanislaus County requires 90% of the Agency's staff time. With the pandemic, there was much more staff time required.

The main issue is the current Agency administrator. The County has fielded more challenges and complaints from ambulance providers, hospitals and fire chiefs in regards to inconsistencies and integrity issues. This created a larger workload for the Fire Warden's office and for the Health Services Agency and is something that issue needs to be fixed.

The 60 day issue from the Board of Supervisors is a timeframe to develop a solution and take a recommendation back to the Board of Supervisor on how the County wants to proceed. The issue with the contracts can be worked through and resolved. The main concern is that the relationships developed after the release of Steve Andriese are not being maintained and do not appear to be a priority.

Chairperson Tofanelli verified with Chief Murdock that Stanislaus County is open to negotiate with the JPA to resolve the issues and then go forward with another one year contract and the Agency would go on as normal as long as those issues were resolved to the satisfaction of Stanislaus County.

Chief Murdock affirmed this as true and indicated that members of the Board of Supervisors have indicated the County can continue with the JPA model, or a multi-county model as long as there are changes made that ensure the relationship the County needs does exist with the Agency.

Chairperson Tofanelli said that is the same for all member counties.

Chief Murdock stated the focus of the relationship with Stanislaus County is collaboration, cooperation, and communication.

Chairperson Tofanelli expressed his support of forming the committee to work out the differences with Stanislaus County so that MVEMSA can continue in its current form or something close to it.

Supervisor Brown asked Chief Murdock why the JPA Board has not heard of these issues in Stanislaus County until now. There should have been communication up the chain to the JPA Board so they could have prevented a larger problem.

Chief Murdock indicated Mr. Doyle has been informed of the challenges as they occurred. Chief Murdock also reminded the Board of the Agency's six month contract with Stanislaus County to retain his services as a mentor to Mr. Doyle in 2018 once the new executive director was appointed. Some of those items discussed in mentorship still became some of the issues the County is now facing. Specifically this applies to knowing your audience and the importance of building relationships and of collaboration. There had been multiple discussions with Mr. Doyle and the invitation for additional meetings to try to work through the issues. There would be some temporary changes, but then the same issues would resurface. With the pandemic response, County resources became overtaxed and continuing discussions on this topic with Mr. Doyle went to the back burner. But at the end of three years, the County has now reached a point of reconsidering if staying in the JPA is the best decision for the County.

Mrs. Lilly shared that the County is really considering a different model. It is not just about an individual. This JPA is a free-standing Agency. Not all JPAs are. Some JPAs have a lead county. In leadership we sometimes have to take a step back and consider if the way we are doing things is really serving the best interests of the County.

Supervisor Menetrey noted there are two different issues. One is the information Chief Murdock shared, the other is the model as shared by Mrs. Lilly. Will there be a committee put together to speak to the model to figure out a way to make it fit again?

Chairperson Tofanelli acknowledged both issues have been brought to the JPA. He is willing to see what can be worked out. The State limits the type of models that can be used for an EMS Agency. Stanislaus County suggested two models: One model would follow that of Fresno County, where EMS System decisions for all member counties is made by the lead county's Board of Supervisors. Chairperson Tofanelli said he would not even consider that option. The second model would be to contract with Stanislaus County as the Executive Director of this Agency. That would require further internal discussion as well as a change to the JPA Agreement. Approval by every member county's Board of Supervisors would be a long process that could take months.

Chairperson Tofanelli recommended Chief Mike Johnson be included in any committee formed to discuss options with Stanislaus County.

Supervisor Woodrow agreed with that recommendation.

M/S/C (Brown/Menetrey) To appoint Supervisor Terry Woodrow, Supervisor Gary Tofanelli, and Chief Mike Johnson to a committee that will represent the JPA in discussions with Stanislaus County.

Motion Passed 5-0

M/S/C (Woodrow/Brown) To appoint Supervisor Jeff Brown, Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Lance Doyle, and Alan McNany to a work group to explore options for the Agency moving forward after the separation of Stanislaus County.

Motion Passed 5-0

K. Agency Office Space Lease

Mr. Doyle reported the Agency is working with the new landlords on a month-to-month agreement for the next six months and then re-evaluate the Agency's status regarding the ability to remain in the current office space for a longer term.

M/S/C (Brown/Menetrey) To approve switching to a month-to-month rental agreement and granting the Executive Director the authority to sign the contract.

Motion Passed 5-0

L. Agency and County Reports

MVEMSA – Mr. Doyle shared the Mobile Simulation Lab is outside the meeting room and available for a tour.

Josh Brace commented the equipment and instruction are phenomenal and the lab is a huge asset for the Agency.

Alpine County – The County continues to work on vaccinations including the population of second homeowners in the area.

Amador County – The County is currently vaccinating ages 18 and up and changing over to the My Turn app for scheduling. The help from American Legion Ambulance has been greatly appreciated.

Calaveras County – The County started vaccinating ages 16 and up. The State has mandated that by 2030 all vehicles are electric. The Calaveras County Transportation Authority is looking to get their first two electric buses. The main challenge is charging stations. Tesla has installed six charging stations in Copperopolis. The County is looking to get some charging stations put in Angels Camp and on up the hill.

Mariposa County – About 44% of the county population is vaccinated and the County is currently vaccinating ages 18 and up.

Stanislaus County –The number one priority is COVID and getting the shots in the arms.

M. Next Scheduled Regular Meeting

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

N. Adjournment

Chairperson Tofanelli adjourned the meeting at 10:04 AM.