

Sacramento County Emergency Medical Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2021, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Meeting Held Electronically

Zoom Video Conference

<https://zoom.us/j/97868563296?pwd=M05oVVlzOXlaS3RRSUy0c1lXamRsQT09>

Phone Dial In: 1.669.900.6833

Meeting ID: 978 6856 3296; Passcode: 728452

ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS			
X	ALS Ground Transport Providers, Public – Barbie Law, Sac Metro Fire		Hospital System – J. Douglas Kirk, MD, UC Davis Health – <i>Excused</i>
X	ALS Ground Transport Providers, Private – Karl Pedroni, American Medical Response (AMR)		Law Enforcement – Lt. Shaun Hampton, Sheriff's Office
	ALS Air Transport Providers – Mike Kaslin, REACH Air Medical	X	Training Provider – Jason Hemler, CSUS
	BLS Providers, Public – James Hendricks, Herald Fire District	EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS	
X	BLS Providers, Private – James Pierson, Medic Ambulance	X	County Primary Health Division – Sandy Damiano, PhD
X	Hospital System – Michael Korpiel, Dignity Health	X	County EMS Administrator – David Magnino
X	Hospital System – Kevin Smith, Kaiser Permanente	X	County EMS Medical Director – Hernando Garzon, MD
X	Hospital System – Kevin Smothers, MD, Sutter Health	GUEST PRESENTER	
		X	Gregory Smith, MD, Kaiser Permanente

Advisory Group Members in Attendance: 10 – *Quorum present*

Public/Guests in Attendance: 15

Staff: Sherri Chambers

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Topic	Minutes
<p>Welcome, Introductions and Opening Remarks - <i>Sandy Damiano, PhD</i></p>	<p>Sandy Damiano welcomed advisory group members, guests, and members of the public and reviewed the agenda and meeting materials. Sherri Chambers conducted roll call. <i>Quorum present.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Agenda Review</u>: EMS Staffing Update, Approval of August Meeting Minutes, AB1544 Community Paramedicine Bill, Wall Times, and Public Comment. • <u>Materials</u>: All members received copies of the agenda, August Meeting Minutes DRAFT, EMS Draft Policy <i>Assess and Refer for Low Acuity Patients</i>, and EMS Policy <i>Extended Ambulance Patient Off-load Times</i> (current and draft revision). Provided later: AB1544 Community Paramedicine slides. <i>Materials are posted on the website.</i> Link: https://dhs.saccounty.net/PRI/EMS/Pages/Emergency-Medical-Advisory-Group.aspx • <u>Additional Agenda Items for Discussion</u>: None • <u>Other Member Announcements</u>: None
<p>EMS Staffing Update – <i>David Magnino</i></p>	<p>Dave Magnino provided an update on the three EMS positions approved in the FY 2021-22 budget.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>EMS Coordinator (1)</u> – Brian Aiello started in September. His assignment involves oversight of critical care programs. • <u>EMS Specialist (1)</u> – Amanda Morse started in September. Her assignment involves investigations and professional standards. • <u>Planner (1)</u> – Stephanie Mello started in October. Her assignment involves the department-wide Disaster Preparedness Program. • Sandy thanked EMAG members for their advocacy which was key in getting these positions approved.
<p>Meeting Minutes – <i>Sherri Chambers</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>APPROVED</u> – Advisory Group members had no changes to the August 12, 2021, draft meeting minutes. Meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Kevin Smothers, seconded by Jimmy Pierson.
<p>AB 1544 Community Paramedicine – <i>Gregory Smith, MD</i></p>	<p>Greg Smith, MD, Regional Associate Medical Director, Kaiser Permanente, provided an update on the status of <u>AB 1544 Community Paramedicine Bill</u> (<i>see PowerPoint Presentation posted on the website</i>).</p> <p><u>Key Points</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Context</u> – A question was raised in the Wall Times Work Group about the status of AB 1544 and how it relates to potential solutions for the wall times issue. • <u>Narrow scope</u> – AB 1544 allows for only 2 options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Alternate destination</u> – Patients may be diverted to a sobering center or behavioral health (BH) destination when specific criteria are met. ○ <u>Community Paramedicine</u> – Limited to observed therapy of TB medication and high utilizer interventions.

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<p>AB 1544 Community Paramedicine – <i>Continued</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Other issues with AB 1544</u> – Sunsets in a few years (2025), ends existing Community Paramedicine (CP) programs even if successful, and training may be complex and costly. <i>Jimmy Pierson clarified that existing CP pilots can go through a process to be grandfathered.</i> • <u>Status</u> – Signed into law and regulations written. Proposal for emergency regulations was declined. • <u>Next steps</u> – Several levels of review and at least 2 opportunities for public comment. Targeted for implementation in early 2022. • <u>Tele911</u> – A new pilot that enables 911 calls meeting criteria to use telemedicine for a physician visit. This is not a CP program because a physician is making the decisions. Pilot will begin soon with Cosumnes Fire. <p><u>Discussion:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hernando Garzon reported the Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) pilot with Metro Fire is starting soon. It is similar to Tele911 but will have physician assistants. Hernando noted they are looking to implement alternate destinations sooner under the governor’s executive order. • <i>Question: What are the expected volumes?</i> Barbie Law said that the MIH pilot is starting with one unit so volumes will not be significant. Dr. Smith said Tele911 will be a small pilot, but if successful, they hope to expand. Jimmy Pierson commented on the potentially large impact of telemedicine. • <i>Question: Will an EMCC be instituted with AB 1544?</i> Not yet determined. It depends on the regulations. • Cindy Myas, Dignity Health, asked about types of alternate destinations and the quality process. Dr. Smith replied that the law strictly limits alternate destinations to BH and sobering centers, and sites must meet specific criteria. The regulations outline an intensive quality program. Operational issues will be defined in LEMSA policy. Hernando added that as Medical Director, he will ensure policies include a QA/QI process with a focus on patient safety. • <i>Question: Are alternate care sites identified?</i> Sandy responded that Fire Chiefs, hospital CEOs, and EMS have been meeting and looking at CP and alternate destinations. There have been talks with WellSpace and County BH. Will soon have access to the sobering center. The MH Urgent Care Clinic will be open 24/7 starting in January. BH is looking to expand other MH services. • Cindy asked about patients who need medical clearance. Jimmy shared some protocols from other counties. Hernando explained the Smart Clear process developed by County BH and hospital ED staff as a guide for determining who can be cleared without workups/labs.
<p>Wall Times Work Group Update – <i>All</i></p>	<p>County staff provided an update on meetings and other activities related to the wall times issue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Work Group</u> – Dave reported the group met in August and September and will meet again on 10/20/21. They have been discussing best practices.

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Wall Times Work
Group Update –
Continued

- Draft Policy “Assess and Refer for Low Acuity Patients” – Hernando explained the policy was first drafted to address EMS system congestion related to COVID-19. It is now revised to include other low acuity scenarios such as minor illness/injury, sobering center, and BH patients. Goal – Activate the policy under the Executive Order to help with the wall times issue. Hospital CEOs, Fire Chiefs and private providers have been given the draft. *Dave requested all feedback by October 22.* The final draft will go to the State for approval.
- Partners – Sandy reported that EMS is meeting with WellSpace on a potential partnership and looking at other agencies to partner with.
- APOT Policy – Hernando noted that policies are reviewed every 2 years. This policy is due for review at the Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) in 12/2021. The draft is out for feedback from hospitals/ALS providers.

Discussion:

- Barbie Law requested the redline version of the APOT policy. *Dave will send it out to EMS providers.*
- Jimmy Pierson asked about the APOT policy review date. Per email, review date was 01/2022. Hernando said MAC meetings changed to quarterly and no longer had a meeting in 01/2022. Review was changed to coincide with the meeting. They send out policies 4-6 weeks before the meeting, take public comment, and have final discussion at the meeting. MAC has an advisory role; the agency/Medical Director have final say.
- Kevin Smothers voiced concern with the transfer of care language in the policy. It implies EMS providers can leave a patient in the ED without formal acceptance by ED staff. This is a safety issue and pits prehospital providers against hospitals when they are really partners. Better solution is how to keep people out of EDs.
- Jimmy agreed that the policy creates an adversarial environment, and wall times will not be improved by this policy. He added that private providers have many issues with the policy. He thanked staff for the feedback process but said more could be gained by getting all parties together to discuss. Sandy said they will have a thorough discussion at the Fire Chiefs/Hospital CEOs/EMS meeting and encouraged all to send policy edits. They want input from both private providers and fire.
- Barbie asked for clarification about the different forums and different versions of the policy being discussed. Hernando replied that MAC/OAC is the appropriate forum for most policies. When a policy is controversial, it rises to CEO/leadership level. After their input, the policy will return to MAC/OAC for final review.
- Hernando noted that the policy does not allow paramedics to drop off patients at the ED without acceptance by the hospital. That could be considered abandonment and he would refer the individual to State EMSA for review. Jimmy disagreed that it would be abandonment and said the statement was not collaborative.
- Sandy discussed items for next meeting: Report backs on Wall Times Work Group, Fire Chiefs/Hospital CEOs/EMS meetings, and policies in review. Also will have Brian Jensen give a brief update on the 5150 release policy for hospitals.

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Public Comment	None – Stakeholders provided comments during each topic.
Closing Remarks and Adjourn – <i>Sandy Damiano</i>	Sandy thanked everyone for participating in today’s meeting. <i>Special thanks to our presenter, Dr. Greg Smith.</i> With no additional business to discuss, the meeting adjourned.
Next Meeting	Thursday, December 9, 2021 / 3:00 – 4:30 PM Zoom Meeting Details – https://zoom.us/j/97868563296?pwd=M05oVVlzOXlaS3RRSUY0c1lXamRsQT09 Meeting ID: 978 6856 3296 Passcode: 728452