



**Sierra – Sacramento Valley EMS Agency
Joint Powers Agency (JPA) Governing Board Meeting**



MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date

- **Friday, March 8, 2024**

MEETING ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS			
MEMBER	REPRESENTING	PRESENT	ABSENT
Bill Connelly	Butte County		X
Merced Corona	Colusa County	X	
Grant Carmon/Monica Rossman	Glenn County	X/X	
Susan Hoek	Nevada County	X	
Jim Holmes (Chairperson)	Placer County	X	
Tim Garman	Shasta County	X	
Brandon Criss	Siskiyou County	X	
Nick Micheli	Sutter County		X
Pati Nolen	Tehama County	X	
Don Blaser	Yuba County		X
EX-OFFICIO MEMBER			
MEMBER	REPRESENTING	PRESENT	ABSENT
John Poland	S-SV EMS Agency	X	
LEGAL COUNSEL			
ATTENDEE	REPRESENTING	PRESENT	ABSENT
Clayton Cook	S-SV EMS Agency/Placer County	X	
CLERK OF THE BOARD			
ATTENDEE	REPRESENTING	PRESENT	ABSENT
Amy Boryczko	S-SV EMS Agency	X	

MEETING ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)

OTHER ATTENDEES	
ATTENDEE	REPRESENTING
Patrick Comstock	S-SV EMS Agency
Gabe Cruz	AMR
Jennifer Johnson	S-SV EMS Agency
Rich Lemon	Dignity Redding

MEETING MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Supervisor Holmes called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

All in-person and remote attendees introduced themselves.

C. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Supervisor Holmes announced that he ran for District 5 Supervisor and lost. His current term will end at the end of the 2024 calendar year.
- Supervisor Carmon – EMS Corp, based out of Oakland, is an organization who helps disadvantaged people become EMTs. They pay them a stipend while they go through training, they have a mentor during the program, etc. Glenn County applied for a grant through this group, to get this program in their County and was awarded the grant. This will be a partnership with Butte and Colusa Counties. Their first meeting is coming up.

D. ACTION TO APPROVE AGENDA

Supervisor Carmon arrived at 1:03pm

There were no requested changes to the agenda. Supervisor Corona motioned to approve the agenda as written. Supervisor Hoek seconded. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=7 (Placer, Nevada, Colusa, Shasta, Glenn, Siskiyou, and Tehama Counties). Noes=0. Absent=3 (Butte, Yuba, and Sutter Counties). Motion approved.

E. ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Carmon motioned to approve the consent agenda. Supervisor Garman seconded. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=7 (Placer, Nevada, Colusa, Shasta, Glenn, Siskiyou, and Tehama Counties). Noes=0. Absent=3 (Butte, Yuba, and Sutter Counties). Motion approved.

F. BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS

1. Chairperson (2-year term)

- Two supervisors were nominated: Supervisor Carmon and Supervisor Hoek. Supervisors Corona and Carmon felt like it was better for the Chairperson to be geographically closer to the agency.
- Supervisor Corona nominated Supervisor Hoek for Chairperson, and Supervisor Holmes seconded.

2. Vice-Chairperson (2-year term)

- Supervisor Corona was nominated by Supervisor Hoek and seconded by Supervisor Holmes.

The Chair and Vice-Chair positions were nominated and seconded, and a single roll call of votes was called for both positions (per Counsel): Ayes=7 (Placer, Nevada, Colusa, Shasta, Glenn, Siskiyou, and Tehama Counties). Noes=0. Absent=3 (Butte, Yuba, and Sutter Counties). Motion approved.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None was forthcoming.

H. INFORMATION UPDATE – Oral Update by John Poland:

1. **Ambulance Response Times**

- Updated response time information was included in the JPA Board packet.
- Data is though January 2024. The data for 2023 was just closed out, and the data is usually about a month behind.
- Mr. Poland noted that there are no significant issues or concerns for any of the counties.
- Any questions or concerns regarding ambulance response times should be directed to Mr. Poland or Ms. Harlan, S-SV EMS Contracts Compliance Manager.

2. **Member County Updates – verbal update**

- Butte County
 - The new EOA went into place in October and is going very well.
 - S-SV EMS Agency Staff met with all the EMS System participants, Butte EMS, Fire Departments, and hospitals in January. Everything is as it should be.
 - They will be transitioning to a new Imagetrend electronic Patient Care Report (EPCR) data platform shortly, which is what S-SV EMS and the State use currently. It was part of the new agreement.

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- They will be taking delivery of 2 new 4-wheel drive ambulances in the next couple of months. They will also purchase a side-by-side utility vehicle with patient transport capabilities for off-road.
- They are working with the Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) in the county to get their cad-to-cad up and running.
- Colusa County
 - AMR will be taking over the emergency ground ambulance services, as the successful bidder in the new EOA in Colusa County, as of 7:00 am on April 1st.
 - They will have 2 24-hr ambulances in that County now.
- Glenn County
 - The 12-hr ambulance that will be serving their county has been delayed. They're waiting for the physical ambulance to be delivered at this point.
 - As of earlier this week, all the fire departments are now dispatched by the Glenn County Sheriff's Office dispatch center.
- Nevada County
 - Mr. Poland and Patrick Comstock attended a hospital evacuation workshop at Tahoe Forest Hospital yesterday. There were lots of hospital, OES, and health department representatives. There will be a tabletop exercise follow-up in either April or May. It also included providers from the Reno, Nevada, area.
 - Tahoe Forest Hospital is also working on becoming a designated Stroke Receiving Center.
 - Sierra-Nevada Ambulance has implemented an additional BLS ambulance in the system, as of a couple of weeks ago. There has been good feedback on this.
- Placer County
 - S-SV EMS Staff have been working with Sierra College on their plan to implement a Paramedic Training Program. They anticipate a fall 2024 start-up, which could be slightly delayed due to the process of getting a paramedic program up and running.
- Shasta County
 - Mercy Medical Center Redding has started an accelerated EMT training program. There are about 20 people currently in this new program.
 - The Ambulance provider in Modoc County has stopped taking calls due to ongoing staffing issues. Meyers Memorial Hospital Ambulance has been responding to these calls when they can. Hopefully this isn't a long-term solution but seems to be working in the meantime.
- Siskiyou County
 - Butte Valley Ambulance stopped responding to calls back in November due to staffing issues. Surrounding providers have been covering these calls. In the last 4 months, Mt. Shasta Ambulance has had 7 responses to the Butte Valley area. Basin Ambulance routinely responds in the Tulelake area, as well as the Doris area. S-SV EMS continues to work with Butte Valley Ambulance to see if they can return to providing ambulance response in that area at some point.
 - Air Ambulance – they've only had one response in that area in November due to the weather. Airlink shut down their Klamath Falls helicopter air ambulance base in early January and their closest base to Siskiyou County is now in Bend Oregon

- Sutter/Yuba Counties
 - The Bi-County Ambulance EOA agreements were renewed recently. S-SV EMS has been monitoring this closely. S-SV EMS staff recently met with the two CEOs and the health officer for Yuba and Sutter and gave them an update. Bi-County Ambulance has been steadily increasing their Paramedic staffing.
 - Both Yuba and Sutter have completed a study to consolidate their multiple dispatch centers. The counties and cities are currently discussing the feasibility of a consolidated public safety dispatch model and the next steps in this process.
- Tehama County
 - Chester FD (Plumas County) shut down their ambulance operations at the beginning of this year. St. Elizabeth Ambulance and Butte County EMS have been covering some of the calls in the Hwy 32/Hwy 36 corridor, without any significant impact.

3. S-SV EMS Agency Updates – verbal updates only

- The current Certification Specialist has resigned and is moving out of State at the end of March. Mr. Poland and Mr. Comstock have several interviews set up over the next week.
- Patti Carter, the long-time Regional Disaster Medical Health Specialist (RDMHS) is retiring at the end of May. This is a State grant-funded position. Due to the State budget issues, Mr. Poland will make sure the funding will still be intact before rehiring for that position.
- The Agency has been looking at a license management system recently. This will be to help the Certification Specialist in their job. There are approx. 5000 active certified/ accredited individuals in the S-SV EMS system. This third-party system will be more efficient, and consistent. Most of the California LEMSAs have some form of a system to manage their certifications.
- S-SV EMS recently updated their mobile application. It hadn't been updated since 2014. It is a significantly more robust application. It also allows the agency to do 'push notifications' which is very helpful.
- S-SV is looking at some website redesign. It hasn't been updated since 2012, and the agency would like it to be more user friendly.
- The 2023 EMS Plan was submitted to the State EMS Authority about 6 weeks ago. There will be a meeting with EMSA on Monday regarding the plan and some minor comments they have. The EMS plan should be approved by the next JPA meeting.
- The lease for the S-SV EMS Rocklin office expires on October 31, 2024. Mr. Poland has reached out to the property management and asked for a 5-year renewal, per the current contract. The owner has indicated they will renew the contract and will be providing a new contract soon.
- S-SV EMS will be participating in an EMS Authority CDPH statewide drill in Sacramento in April. This is a 4-day drill.
- S-SV EMS is looking at updating the Specialty Patient Data Registries. California statutes/regulations require data registries and reports for STEMI, Stroke, and Trauma patients. S-SV EMS currently has 3 separate data registries. ESO will no longer support one of the registries at the end of this calendar year. S-SV EMS is trying to get one registry for all specialty patients. This will be more expensive, and S-SV EMS will likely need to raise the specialty center fees at some point to help pay for this increased cost.

- Mr. Poland, Mr. Comstock, and Ms. Boryczko had a meeting a couple of weeks ago with the Placer County Auditor/Controller and Treasurer's offices. Placer County, the host County for S-SV EMS, learned that only the Placer County treasurer should have control of bank accounts for the Agency. The Agency has a long-standing separate Bank of America bank account used for payroll purposes that will need to be transitioned over to the County. This will make things simpler and compliant going forward.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. Draft FY2024/2025 S-SV EMS Agency Budget Summary – *for discussion*
 - The final budget will be at the May meeting.
 - S-SV will evaluate all current fees over the next year and anticipate some changes in the 2025/2026 FY.
 - S-SV anticipates maintaining a balanced budget for the 2024/2025 fiscal year.
 - Summary – there is a slight increase in the franchises due to an automatic 3-5% increase in most of the agency contracts.
 - Licenses/Permits – this is based on actuals. Paramedics are not charged for re-accreditation, but EMTs pay for initial certification and to recert.
 - There was a proposed budget increase in investment income. This is something that was discussed with the auditor/controller and treasurer. Based on their investment strategy and long-term investment goals, there should be a continued increase.
 - No increase in the local matching funds for the counties is being proposed. They will remain at \$10,000 base and .42 per capita – as it has been for the past 20+ years.
 - There is a significant increase under 'Other Fees/Charges'. This is specifically related to the Westside Ambulance side letter agreement and is strictly pass-through funding.
 - Salary/Wages – there is a slight proposed increase, which Mr. Poland will address in the closed session.
 - There aren't any significant increases/decreases in any of the other categories. The budget is balanced.
2. Confirm authorization of the agency's designated representative regarding negotiation of salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of the agency's unrepresented employees (Government Code 54957.6(a))
 - Agency Designated Representative:
John Poland, Regional Executive Director
 - S-SV EMS employees are not represented by a union. All salary adjustments/ negotiations are brought to the Board by the Regional Executive Director.
 - Before any negotiations could be done in Closed Session, this had to be stated in Open Session.

Supervisor Hoek motioned to approve Mr. Poland as the Designated Representative. Supervisor Carmon seconded. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=7 (Placer, Nevada, Colusa, Shasta, Glenn, Siskiyou, and Tehama Counties). Noes=0. Absent=3 (Butte, Yuba, and Sutter Counties). Motion approved.

J. OLD BUSINESS

1. Colusa County Emergency Ground Ambulance Services Exclusive Operating Area (EOA) Agreement with American Medical Response West – **for approval**
 - This is the agreement with AMR for Colusa County. On April 1st, they will take over emergency 9-1-1 ambulance service for Colusa County.
 - A contract was negotiated with AMR based on the RFP. S-SV EMS is recommending the approval of this contract to the Board.
 - All current staff have been hired by AMR, and AMR will be hiring additional staff for the second unit.
 - There are no issues or concerns.

Supervisor Corona motioned to approve the contract. Supervisor Carmon seconded. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=7 (Placer, Nevada, Colusa, Shasta, Glenn, Siskiyou, and Tehama Counties). Noes=0. Absent=3 (Butte, Yuba, and Sutter Counties). Motion approved.

K. LEGISLATION

2:00 pm Supervisor Hoek had to leave the meeting.

- Mr. Poland, with EMSAAC, did some legislative visits last week.
- They attended the EMS Authority's initial budget hearing. At this point, based on the Governor's January initial budget, there are no anticipated EMS Authority budget cuts.
- AB 1168 is the bill that would allow the City of Oxnard to deem themselves a 1797.201 entity, which would allow them to take over ambulance services just in the City of Oxnard which would make it hard for the County. This could come back at any time but is currently in suspense. Mr. Poland met with the author of the bill and had a good conversation with him regarding the EMSAAC standpoint.
- AB 2225. Existing law exempts from discovery as evidence the proceedings and records of specified organized committees of health care professionals and review committees having the responsibility of evaluation and improvement of the quality of care. This bill would extend this exemption, for purposes of civil proceedings only, to the proceedings and records of emergency medical services, prehospital emergency medical care person or personnel, organized committees, and review committees.
- AB 2348 titled the 'LEMSA Transparency Bill'.
 - The requirements of the bill are not significant. S-SV EMS and most other LEMSAs are already doing most of it.
 - The bill is focused significantly on reporting Ambulance response times, and the exemptions to that as well as the Code 3 lights and sirens. The concern is that it may confuse the public and they may have some unrealistic expectations of the EMS.
 - The EMS Authority is currently working on Chapter 13 Regulations which will address most of this. The preference would be to have this happen on the regulatory side.
- AB2859 Emergency Medical Technicians: Peer Support. This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to provide peer-to-peer support for emergency medical technicians and other ambulance employees. This has been done recently for nurses and Fire Departments. EMSAAC is supportive of this.
- AB2973 this is a concerning spot bill only at this point. EMSAAC is watching this very closely.

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- SB1180 - This bill would require a health care service plan contract or health insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2025, to include coverage for services provided by a community paramedicine program, a triage to alternate destination program, and a mobile integrated health program.

L. MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- COVID peaked in week 1 of 2024 and is down significantly since.
- Influenza A & B peaked in week 51 of 2023 and is down significantly since.
- 911 Response volume is down about 6%, Inter Facility Transfers (IFT) are down about 10%.
- The Ambulance Patient Offload Times (APOT) have improved. APOT numbers are down about 43%, especially for patients waiting more than 60 minutes. The APOTs are down 49% at Kaiser Roseville.

M. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session convened at 2:13 pm

Conference with Labor Negotiator – Cost of Living Adjustments (Government Code § 54957.6)

- Agency Designated Representative: John Poland, Regional Executive Director
- Unrepresented Employees:
 - Deputy Director- Operations
 - Deputy Director – Specialty Programs/Clinical QM
 - Administrative Secretary/Financial Services Assistant
 - EMS Specialist – Contracts Compliance Manager
 - EMS Specialist – Data Analyst
 - EMS Specialist – Investigator
 - EMS Specialist – Quality Management
 - EP Coordinator/EP Grant Coordinator
 - RDMHS
 - RDMHS II
 - Certification Specialist

CLOSED SESSION REPORT – reconvened at 2:18 pm

- The Board met in closed session to discuss the matter of Labor and Negotiations involving cost of living adjustments for the unrepresented employees.
- In closed session, the Board heard a report and provided direction to approve a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) of 3% increase a year for the next two years (fiscal year 2024/2025 and fiscal year 2025/2026) through a vote of 6-0, 6 in favor, no opposed no abstentions.

N. NEXT JPA GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

The next JPA Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 8, 2024, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., 535 Menlo Drive, Suite A, Rocklin, CA or via videoconference at 1255 East St., Suite 201, Redding, CA.

O. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Boryczko, Clerk to the Board

Date

Jim Holmes, Chairperson

Date