



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



MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date

- **Friday, September 8, 2023**

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/Mary Rickert | Shasta County | X/X | |
| Brandon Criss | Siskiyou County | | X |
| Nick Micheli | Sutter County | | X |
| Matt Hansen/Pati Nolen | Tehama County | X/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 |
| Emily Taylor | 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 |
| Troy Falck | S-SV EMS Agency |
| Michelle Moss | S-SV EMS Agency |
| Jennifer Johnson | S-SV EMS Agency |
| Mark Belden | AMR/REACH |
| Gabriel Cruz | AMR |
| Bob Hall | Butte EMS |
| Byron Parsons | Butte County EMS |
| Jenny Humphries | BCEMS/Enloe |

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

There were no board member announcements.

D. ACTION TO APPROVE AGENDA

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, Yuba, Colusa, Shasta, Glenn, and Tehama Counties). Noes=0. Absent=3 (Butte, Siskiyou, and Sutter Counties). Motion approved.

E. ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Hoek motioned to approve the consent agenda. Supervisor Blaser seconded. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=5 (Placer, Nevada, Yuba, Glenn, and Tehama Counties). Abstain=2 (Colusa and Shasta Counties) Noes=0. Absent=3 (Butte, Siskiyou, and Sutter Counties). Motion approved.

F. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None was forthcoming.

G. INFORMATION UPDATE – Oral Update by John Poland:

Supervisor Connelly arrived at 1:13 p.m.

1. Ambulance Response Times

- Updated response time information was included in the Board packet.
- Mr. Poland noted that there is nothing concerning for any of the counties. Everything is stable with no significant issues.
- Any questions or concerns regarding ambulance response times should be directed to Mr. Poland or Ms. Harlan.
- Supervisor Garman thanked S-SV EMS for great response times.

2. County EMS System Updates

- **Butte County**
 - Butte College has recently hired a new Paramedic Training Program Director.
- **Colusa County**
 - S-SV EMS has been working on an RFP for Colusa County. The proposed RFP has been submitted to the California EMS Authority and was recently approved by them to be released. The RFP will go to the Colusa County Board of Supervisors for final approval on Tuesday. Assuming it's approved, it will be released to the public shortly thereafter.
 - S-SV EMS recently facilitated a meeting with Colusa County EMS ground providers, aircraft providers and dispatch centers to discuss the current air ambulance coordination process and some recent issues regarding this. The meeting went well. Issues/questions/concerns were all addressed and discussed.
- **Glenn County**
 - S-SV EMS has been working with Glenn County related to subsidy funds that they would like to utilize to help support/improve ground ambulance services. The goal is to add a 12 hr/day, 7 days/week, 365 days/year ambulance.
- **Nevada County**
 - There was a recent meeting with Sierra Nevada Hospital and Sierra Nevada Ambulance Administration to discuss their EOA Agreement that expires on December 31, 2023. The intention is to renew the EOA Agreement. Sierra Nevada Ambulance has asked for a 3-year rather than a 5-year extension due to the provider reviewing their ambulance services financial situation. The EOA Agreement renewal will be on the November JPA Board meeting agenda for consideration.
- **Placer County**
 - S-SV EMS continues to work with Sutter Roseville Medical Center, Kaiser Roseville Medical Center and Sacramento County EMS on Ambulance Patient Offload Time (APOT) matters, which continue to improve.

- **Shasta County**
 - S-SV EMS continues to work with Meyers Memorial Hospital in the Fall River Mills area. Meyers has taken over the ambulance service for their hospital district and has been considering options. They recently ended their relationship with REMSA. The system is currently maintained and stable.
 - Burney Fire Protection District continues to experience staffing difficulties which results in their 911 ambulance not being in-service 100% of the time. S-SV EMS continues to work with them on this.
- **Siskiyou County**
 - S-SV EMS has been working with the USDA Forest Service – who has changed the way they procure EMS resources for wildfires this year. In the past, they would send out a local request and would get local resources. This year it's national. The biggest issue is that the vetting of out-of-state EMTs and paramedics is almost non-existent. North Coast EMS and Nor-Cal EMS Agencies have also had issues with this. S-SV EMS has reached out to the California EMS Authority and CAL FIRE and is in the process of setting up meetings with the USDA Forest Service to further address these issues. The only other option would be to not approve the out-of-state EMTs and paramedics – which is not ideal/intended.
 - Supervisor Criss announced at the EMAG meeting two weeks ago that Butte Valley Ambulance (a BLS provider in the northeastern portion of Siskiyou County) is having ongoing difficulty finding volunteers for staffing and there is a possibility that they will have to shut down in the next 6-9 months. S-SV EMS continues to monitor this situation and will address it as necessary.
- **Tehama County**
 - No specific updates, issues, or concerns.
- **Sutter & Yuba Counties**
 - S-SV EMS continues to work with Bi-County Ambulance on their paramedic staffing shortage issues. They have recently increased paramedic staffing but still not back to previous levels.
 - The Bi-County Ambulance EOA agreements for Sutter & Yuba counties expire on December 31, 2023. S-SV EMS will be working with Bi-County Ambulance and Sutter & Yuba County administration representatives on short-term renewals of their EOA agreements.
- Supervisor Carmon thanked Mr. Poland and Ms. Harlan for all their work with helping Glenn County explore their ambulance expansion.
- Danielle Nuzum, Butte County Assistant CAO, also thanked Mr. Poland and his staff for their work on the Butte County EOA contract.

3. Controlled Substances Procurement Issues

- In 1970 – the national Controlled Substance Act (CSA) was passed. At that time, there were no EMS references, which has created issues related to the utilization of controlled substances by EMS providers over the years.
- In 2017, Federal Legislation was passed by Congress called 'Protecting Patients access to Emergency Medications Act' (PPAEMA) to address these issues. One of the things

- this PPAEMA was supposed to do was allow EMS providers to obtain DEA registration to order, stock, and utilize controlled substances (i.e., Midazolam, Ketamine, etc).
- In 2020/2021, the DEA initiated a rule-making process to develop and implement the PPAEMA, but that process was never completed, and a final rule was never enacted.
 - Most EMS providers have a physician medical director that can sign prescriptions for controlled substance medications but not all due (especially some rural EMS providers).
 - Recently one of the hospitals in the S-SV EMS region that was providing controlled substances to EMS providers was fined by the California Board of Pharmacy and told they could no longer continue to do that. As a result, these providers are not currently able to obtain/restock their controlled substances necessary for patient care.
 - Mr. Poland has been working with state and federal entities to attempt to address/ resolve this issue so that EMS providers can register with the DEA to obtain the controlled substances they need to provide EMS patient care. Mr. Poland recently met with a representative of Congressman Kevin Kiley's office and will continue to work on this matter.
 - It was suggested that down the line, if needed, the individual County Boards could possibly contribute letters or take other action to assist with this matter.
- 4. 2023 American Heart Association Mission Lifeline Regional STEMI System Award**
- S-SV EMS has a very robust and long-standing regional STEMI system in the 10-county S-SV EMS region and recently receive an award recognizing this regional system.
- 5. 2023 LEMSA Budget Survey**
- The Emergency Medical Services Administrator's Association of California (EMSAAC) has a contractor who recently performed a budget survey of all 34 Local Emergency Medical Service Agencies (LEMAs) in California and put together a report regarding this survey. A summary of the findings was provided to the Board by Mr. Poland.
 - Of the 34 LEMAs, S-SV EMS has the 4th lowest revenue/population.
 - Of the 7 Multi-County LEMAs, S-SV EMS has the lowest revenue/population.
 - S-SV EMS is also the 7th highest for total population.
 - The S-SV EMS annual budget is around \$3.4M. Approx. \$700K is pass-through funding and is not used for S-SV EMS Agency purposes. This passthrough funding is unique to S-SV EMS and the other LEMAs do not have similar passthrough funding mechanisms.

H. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. FY 2023/2024 S-SV EMS Agency Budget Revision – for approval**
- The California EMS Authority recently sent the final Multi-County LEMSA general fund agreement for FY 2023/2024, which included a slight increase of \$578.00.
 - Agency personnel costs will be a little lower than what Mr. Poland originally budgeted.
 - The on-call duty officer call processing contract with SHASCOM has increased by \$600/year, and there was a need to revise a few of the other expense budget line items.
 - Mr. Poland presented a revised FY 2023/2024 Budget to the Board, which remains balanced.

Supervisor Corona motioned to approve. Supervisor Garman seconded. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=8 (Placer, Nevada, Yuba, Glenn, Colusa, Shasta, Butte, and Tehama Counties). Noes=0. Absent=2 (Siskiyou, and Sutter Counties). Motion approved.

2. S-SV EMS Agency Employee Handbook Revision – for approval.

- In May, the Board approved the special Paramedic Education Pay Stipend.
- To ensure that it was being reported properly for accounting reasons, Mr. Poland contacted CalPERS who reviewed it and sent back some suggested policy language.
- This suggested policy language was incorporated into the Employee Handbook.

Supervisor Hansen motioned to approve the resolution. Supervisor Connelly seconded. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=8 (Placer, Nevada, Yuba, Glenn, Colusa, Shasta, Butte, and Tehama Counties). Noes=0. Absent=2 (Siskiyou, and Sutter Counties). Motion approved.

3. S-SV EMS Agency Capitalization Policy – for approval

- During the recent annual agency audit, Mr. Poland recognized that that agency had no formal written Capitalization Policy. Per previous Audit reports, all assets with a cost of greater than \$1000 were being capitalized, rather than the widely accepted \$5000 for public special districts.
- Mr. Poland drafted this policy and sent it to the auditors who had no suggested changes.

Supervisor Garman motioned to approve. Supervisor Corona seconded. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=8 (Placer, Nevada, Yuba, Glenn, Colusa, Shasta, Butte, and Tehama Counties). Noes=0. Absent=2 (Siskiyou, and Sutter Counties). Motion approved.

I. OLD BUSINESS

1. Butte County Ground Ambulance Exclusive Operating Area Agreement with Butte County Emergency Medical Services, LLC, DBA Butte County EMS – for approval

- S-SV EMS has successfully negotiated a 5-year Exclusive Operating Area (EOA) Agreement with Butte County EMS, LLC, and Mr. Poland recommended the Board approve the negotiated EOA Agreement.

Supervisor Connelly motioned to approve. Supervisor Hoek seconded. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=8 (Placer, Nevada, Yuba, Glenn, Colusa, Shasta, Butte, and Tehama Counties). Noes=0. Absent=2 (Siskiyou, and Sutter Counties). Motion approved.

J. LEGISLATION

- The California Assembly and Senate must complete the current session legislative bill activities by next Thursday.
- AB379: LEMSA Transparency
 - Requires each LEMSA to post their approved EMS plans and their annual budgets on their website, which S-SV EMS already does.
 - This was held last week in the senate appropriations committee and is dead for the year.
- AB1028: Mandated Reporting
 - This would have eliminated some of the mandated reporting and would have made it more of a 'warm handoff' and referral to counseling – depending on the situation.

- This had a lot of opposition from law enforcement.
- This was held last week in the senate appropriations committee. It may come back after the first of the year.
- AB40: Ambulance Patient Offload Time (APOT)
 - The bill requires LEMSAs to develop an APOT standard of no more than 30 minutes, 90% of the time and includes other provision to address APOT delays. The S-SV EMS APOT standard is already set in policy at 20 minutes, 90% of the time.
 - The bill was amended on 9/01/2023. One of the amendments extended the implementation timeline from June 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024.
 - It was passed by the Senate yesterday. It will move to the Assembly with the Senate amendments and will have to be finalized by next Thursday.
- AB716: Ambulance Billing
 - The primary purpose of the bill is to prevent surprise ground ambulance billing, but also includes other provisions such as requiring the California EMS Authority to collect, publish, and trend maximum allowable ambulance charges by County.
 - The bill was amended in the Senate on September 6th. It is scheduled for its third and final senate reading on Monday and is expected to pass the senate.
- AB1168: FD JPA H&S Code 1797.201 Rights
 - The City of Oxnard and Ventura County had recent litigation regarding this matter, and the courts ruled that The City of Oxnard did not in fact have 1797.201 rights. One of the primary purposes of this bill is to override this court finding and deem that the City of Oxnard would in fact have 1797.201 rights. This would allow them to remove themselves from the Ventura County established ground ambulance EOA transport system and be able to provide ambulance services just to the residents of their city. Most California counties continue to be opposed to this bill as its expected consequences, if passed, would likely fragment the EMS systems in California.
 - The bill is scheduled for its final reading on Monday (most likely). It's expected to pass the senate and will then go to the assembly – where it's also expected to pass. There is a possibility that the Governor will veto the bill.

K. MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- COVID
 - It's hard to say how many people have it. Many do not test and/or report it.
 - The California Emergency Departments had 0.5% patients with Covid in July, and now have 2%- a slight increase.
 - There will be a new booster for the newest variant. The CDC is trying to decide who will receive this booster that hasn't been tested on humans yet. England isn't allowing boosters at all.
- West Nile Virus
 - There have been 75 cases in California this year of which 17 are in the S-SV region. Butte County had 10 of those cases. There have been 5 West Nile Virus deaths in California.

Sierra – Sacramento EMS Agency – JPA Governing Board Meeting Minutes

- Fentanyl
 - Still an issue. There have been no reports of secondary exposure to first responders in the S-SV Region. Narcan is now over the counter.
- Supervisor Holmes reported that Placer County is passing an emergency ordinance to opt out of the California ‘Needle exchange’.

L. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session convened at 1:50 pm

- ITEM 1. Government Code § 54957 - Regional Executive Director Performance review
- CLOSED SESSION REPORT** – reconvened at 2:00pm
- The Board conducted the Regional Executive Director’s performance review.
 - The standard annual salary step increase (step B to C) for the Regional Executive Director was approved by the Board.

M. NEXT JPA GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

The next JPA Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 3, 2023, 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.

N. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Boryczko, Clerk to the Board

Date

Jim Holmes, Chairperson

Date