



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



**MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Date**

- **Friday, November 3, 2023**

**MEETING ATTENDANCE**

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

**MEETING ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)**

| <b>OTHER ATTENDEES</b> |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>ATTENDEE</b>        | <b>REPRESENTING</b> |
| Patrick Comstock       | S-SV EMS Agency     |
| Troy Falck             | S-SV EMS Agency     |
| Michelle Moss          | S-SV EMS Agency     |
| Jeff McManus           | S-SV EMS Agency     |
| Jennifer Jensen        | Jensen Smith CPA    |
| Alex Bumpus            | Bi-County Ambulance |

**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 thought this would be his last year as District 3 Supervisor of Placer County but has decided to run next year for District 5 Supervisor.

**D. ACTION TO APPROVE AGENDA**

There were no requested changes to the agenda. Supervisor Hoek motioned to approve the agenda as written. Supervisor Corona seconded. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=9 (Placer, Nevada, Yuba, Colusa, Shasta, Glenn, Butte, Siskiyou, and Tehama Counties). Noes=0. Absent=1 (Sutter County). Motion approved.

**E. ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Supervisor Garman motioned to approve the consent agenda. Supervisor Hoek seconded. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=9 (Placer, Nevada, Yuba, Colusa, Shasta, Glenn, Butte, Siskiyou, and Tehama Counties). Noes=0. Absent=1 (Sutter County). Motion approved.

**F. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None was forthcoming.

**G. INFORMATION UPDATE – Oral Update by John Poland:**

**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 Hansen asked about Dignity Health's lower numbers for the most recent month. Mr. Poland stated that it was an anomaly, and they are expected to be back to normal times.
- Supervisor Criss mentioned that Butte Valley Ambulance (in the Siskiyou area) is volunteer staffed and is relying a lot on Basin Valley Ambulance currently.

**2. County EMS System Updates**

- **Butte County**
  - New EOA Contract with the same provider went into effect on 10/01/23.
  - Working with Butte County EMS on implementation items.
  - In the process of developing an ambulance sub-committee which will meet for the first time in January 2024.
  - Mr. Poland will be at the Butte County Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday morning to give an update on the contract.
- **Colusa County**
  - September 18 – S-SV EMS published the ground ambulance request for proposal.
  - Interested proposers have until November 13, to submit a proposal. There were 2 potential bidders (AMR and Enloe) that attended the mandatory bidder's conference.
  - Mr. Poland anticipates having a recommendation for the Board at the January 2024 meeting.
- **Glenn County**
  - The City of Orland and Glenn County have been working together to provide some funding to increase ambulance services in Glenn County.
  - S-SV EMS has been working with Westside Ambulance, the City of Orland and Glenn County facilitate this.
  - Mr. Poland will be at the Glenn County Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday afternoon to update them.
  - Glenn County is submitting a grant for EMS Corps – which is a program that provides funding to train EMTs as well as assistance funding while they are training. Mr. Poland supplied a letter of support for that program, from S-SV EMS.
- **Nevada County**
  - A 3-year extension has been negotiated with Sierra Nevada Ambulance for their EOA Agreement.
  - Penn Valley FPD, Rough and Ready FPD, and Nevada County Consolidated FPD are working on a merger. Penn Valley and Nevada County Consolidated are jointly staffing the Rough and Ready FPD so that service continues in that area.

- **Placer County**
    - Western Placer County Fire agencies and 9-1-1 ambulance provider are exploring a CAD-to-CAD integration project. This would allow the CAD systems to communicate with each other timelier and more efficiently than they are now. Supervisor Holmes has been at some of these meetings as well.
    - LAFCO is currently working on the Placer County Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence study which is required every 5 years. The last one was completed in 2017. There should be a final report which might include suggestions on ways to further improve FD/EMS services in Placer County.
    - Mr. Poland provided an update on the status of the AMR First Responder Fund – which is funded by AMR as part of their EOA Agreement requirements.
      - AMR contributes \$150K/year - this helps with equipment purchases and training.
      - Most recently, almost every fire agency in Placer County has been outfitted with mechanical CPR devices.
      - Several ALS departments have or will soon have video laryngoscopy equipment – the intent is to improve advanced airway success rates with this equipment.
      - Currently in the process of implementing a county-wide pediatric equipment and treatment system that will help the EMS care for pediatric patients.
  - **Shasta County**
    - S-SV EMS staff facilitated a meeting, in mid-October, in Redding, to talk about ambulance patient offload time (APOT) delays at both Redding hospitals.
      - This involved the hospitals, EMS providers, County representatives, and public health.
      - There were some good discussions/ideas that are being explored to reduce those times.
      - S-SV EMS will continue to work with providers to reduce these APOT delays and get the ambulances back in service to respond to other 9-1-1 emergencies.
  - **Siskiyou County**
    - S-SV EMS staff have been in Siskiyou County at various meetings and have done ambulance inspections over the last couple of months.
  - **Sutter & Yuba Counties**
    - S-SV EMS negotiated a 3-year EOA extension with Bi-County Ambulance for both counties.
    - Both counties are working on a consolidated dispatch evaluation. A vendor has been hired to look at the current system to see where improvements can be made.
  - **Tehama County**
    - No specific updates.
- 3. USDA Forest Service EMS Personnel Vetting (verbal update)**
- There were some issues with the new process the USDA Forest Service is using for securing and requesting out-of-state EMS resources/personnel.
  - S-SV EMS had an excellent meeting with the USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, the Department of Interior, CalFire, and the EMS Authority. Dr. Falck was also at the meeting.

- Most of the issues/concerns were addressed. The USDA Forest Service has agreed to continue to refine their processes and provide additional education to their Medical Unit Leaders. It is expected that next year's fire season should go much better.

#### 4. DEA EMS Controlled Substances Regulations

- In 2017, Federal Legislation was passed by Congress called 'Protecting Patients access to Emergency Medications Act' (PPAEMA) to address EMS controlled substance ordering, maintenance, and utilization issues. One of the things the PPAEMA was supposed to do was allow EMS providers to obtain a DEA registration to order, stock, and utilize controlled substances, without having to go through a physician medical director – which has created some issues, in a few areas.
- Mr. Poland has been working closely with Congressman Kiley and his staff and has now had a response from the DEA that they're moving the law (which has been stagnant for 3 years) from a notice of public rule making to a final action – based on the letter written by Mr. Poland and Congressman Kiley's office written from a statewide perspective. It's anticipated that additional movement on this matter will occur within the next 30 days.

#### 5. FICEMS Statement on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility

- The federal government distributed a document recently which is a one-page statement on diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA).
- There may be some statewide legislation at some point regarding this.

### H. NEW BUSINESS

#### 1. Sierra Nevada Ambulance EOA Agreement – *for approval*

- They are one of the grandfathered S-SV EMS EOA ground ambulance providers.
- A 3-year extension was negotiated and will begin on 1/1/24 and run through 12/31/26.
- The rates have increased but are consistent with rates of other similar providers.
- The provider asked specifically for a 3-year extension due to their long-term financial concerns for their ground ambulance line of service. S-SV EMS would normally negotiate a 5-year extension.

Supervisor Connelly motioned to approve the agreement. Supervisor Hoek seconded. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=9 (Placer, Nevada, Yuba, Colusa, Shasta, Glenn, Butte, Siskiyou, and Tehama Counties). Noes=0. Absent=1 (Sutter County). Motion approved.

#### 2. Bi-County Ambulance Sutter County EOA Agreement – *for approval*.

- Bi-County Ambulance is the current 9-1-1 emergency ground ambulance provider for Sutter and Yuba counties and is one of the grandfathered S-SV EMS EOA providers.
- They have had paramedic staffing challenges over the past year, as relayed to the Board by Mr. Poland during previous meetings. Alex Bumpus (Bi-County Ambulance President/CEO) has worked to resolve the paramedic staffing challenges, which continue to improve.
- S-SV EMS staff worked closely with the applicable CAOs, Health Officer and other administration to renegotiate these renewal contracts, and is recommending a 3-year renewal of this Exclusive Operating Area (EOA), to the Board.

Supervisor Corona motioned to approve the agreement. Supervisor Blaser seconded. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=9 (Placer, Nevada, Yuba, Colusa, Shasta, Glenn, Butte, Siskiyou, and Tehama Counties). Noes=0. Absent=1 (Sutter County). Motion approved.

### **3. Bi-County Ambulance Yuba County EOA Agreement – *for approval***

- There are 2 different EOA agreements (one for each County), but they are substantially similar.
- Mr. Poland mentioned that a performance security bond requirement was also added to both agreements to ensure the public health and safety in the event of a contract breach.

Supervisor Carmon motioned to approve the agreement. Supervisor Blaser seconded. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=9 (Placer, Nevada, Yuba, Colusa, Shasta, Glenn, Butte, Siskiyou, and Tehama Counties). Noes=0. Absent=1 (Sutter County). Motion approved.

### **4. S-SV EMS FY 22/23 Audit (Jensen Smith) – *for approval***

- Jennifer Jensen presented the audit for Jensen Smith, CPA's.
- The audit went very smoothly this year. Mr. Poland did a great job of organizing schedules, and cleaning up spreadsheets/confusion, which made it much easier for the auditors this year.
- The audit has a clean opinion.
- Pages 4-8 are the management discussion analysis which is a narrative of the financial statement. The wording is the same, but the numbers changed.
- The financial statements start on page 9, there are 2 sets of statements.
  - The first set is on a full accrual basis – all liabilities and revenues are reported here.
  - The Fund Statement is slightly different – revenues not received in the first 60 days after the year's end are not recorded as revenues that year. Also, no lease liabilities are seen here, and no pension here.
- Page 9 shows total assets at \$6.9M, which is a decrease of about \$384K. This is due to OPEB assets changes and market fluctuations.
- There is \$1.9M in total liabilities. Of this amount, \$1.6M is pension liability. This increased \$848K from the prior year due to market fluctuations.
- Total net position of \$5.2M, which is total net asset minus the liabilities.
- Page 10 shows profit and loss. Total expenditures were \$2,649,686. Total revenue \$3.2M. Leaving about \$539K in net profits.
- For the general fund, the personnel costs on this page are \$1.3M. On page 13, the personnel costs are \$1.5M. That difference is due to the pension and OPEBs. Even though the liability went up and the assets went down, it reduced the expenses for the year. It created a credit for the personnel costs. Overall, the change in net position was \$602K for the year.
- On page 11 is the statement of fund balance. This has no long-term receivables or debts. No pensions or OPEBs. Total assets were almost \$5.5M, total liabilities were almost \$74K. Total fund balance is \$5.4M – still positive.
- The differences between the statements are found on page 12.
- Statement of activities is on page 13, which was \$694K for the year.
- On page 22 is the cash. There is cash in the investment pool with Placer County as well as the cash account used for payroll. This total is a little over \$5M in assets.
- On page 23, there are more market fluctuations. The county pool cash decreased and is at \$4,998,560.

- On page 24 is the lease standard. Office leases show up as an asset.
- Page 34 shows mannikins that weren't previously recorded. There were also minor adjustments for the OPEBs.
- On Page 36 is the budget to actual. \$3.4 M was budgeted, \$3.6M actually came in. Some of this is due to the State making late payments to the agency.
- Page 42 is the internal control report. The only finding is that the financial statements are prepared outside of the agency. S-SV EMS relies on Jensen Smith to put these together. No changes from previous audits.
- Jennifer stated that everything went very smoothly, and said the Staff is always helpful getting information to the auditors.
- Any questions can be sent to Jennifer Jensen.

Supervisor Corona motioned to approve the audit. Supervisor Hansen seconded. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=9 (Placer, Nevada, Yuba, Colusa, Shasta, Glenn, Butte, Siskiyou, and Tehama Counties). Noes=0. Absent=1 (Sutter County). Motion approved.

#### **5. 2024 JPA Meeting Schedule – *for approval***

- The proposed calendar for 2024 maintains the same meeting schedule (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of every other month from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm).
- Mr. Poland pointed out that at the January 2023 meeting there ended up not being a quorum due to the Supervisors not being able to vote at that meeting. Ms. Boryczko, the Clerk to the Board, reached out to all of the County Clerks to find out if any of the counties had rules similar to this. Glenn County said their supervisors would not be allowed to vote. Supervisor Carmon thought that was not correct. No other counties/supervisors identified any issues/concerns.

Supervisor Corona motioned to approve the 2024 meeting calendar. Supervisor Blaser seconded. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=9 (Placer, Nevada, Yuba, Colusa, Shasta, Glenn, Butte, Siskiyou, and Tehama Counties). Noes=0. Absent=1 (Sutter County). Motion approved.

#### **I. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

#### **J. LEGISLATION**

- This year's State legislation session has concluded.
- AB40: Ambulance Patient Offload Time (APOT)
  - This bill was signed by the Governor.
  - S-SV EMS has been in contact with the State EMS Authority. They're going to schedule some meetings in January to work on the emergency regulations based upon this legislation with the anticipation that the proposed new regulations will be ready by June.
- AB255: Public Postsecondary Education: Priority Registration for First Responders
  - This bill requires the California State University, community colleges, and the University of California, to grant priority registration for a member or former member of the Armed Forces of the United States, as well as first responders commencing with the 2025–26 academic year.

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- AB716: Ambulance Billing
  - This bill would require the authority to annually report the allowable maximum rates for ground ambulance transportation services in each county, including trending the rates by county. It will also prohibit ground ambulance balanced billing.
- AB767 Community Paramedicine or Triage to Alternate Destination Act
  - Increases the sunset date of these programs but does not fix the fundamental flaws contained in the legislation and subsequent statutes/regulations which make these programs financially and operationally infeasible in most areas of California – including throughout the S-SV EMS region.
  - San Francisco and Fresno counties are the only LEMSAs who are implementing such programs and most other LEMSAs are not exploring them further.

### **K. MEDICAL DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

- Dr. Falck had nothing specific to report on and received no specific questions from Board members.

### **L. NEXT JPA GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

The next JPA Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 12, 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.

### **M. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Boryczko, Clerk to the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Holmes, Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date