



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES PROGRAM

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMISSION

MINUTES

<u>DATE:</u>	OCTOBER 17, 2022	<u>TIME:</u>	9:00 AM-9:45 AM
<u>PLACE:</u>	Online Only: ZOOM		

MINUTES

ITEM:

1. Call to Order/Establish Quorum, Review/Correct Agenda, Minutes for August 2022.
 - a. Quorum Met, Minutes approved.
2. Written Correspondence Listing – None.
3. Oral Communications – None.
4. COVID-19 Update
 - a. Dr. Ghilarducci reported Covid levels are fairly low. We will see a bit of an uptick as weather gets colder. Bivalent booster has low participation. New variants on the horizon we are keeping an eye on. Celia found it challenging to get the Bivalent booster in the County.
 - b. Seasonal flu – Based on Australia’s active flu season, we expect our flu season to be very active and high. Flu vaccine will help.
 - c. MPox relatively stable. Very low new cases. Lots of vaccinations and behavior changes have helped keep new cases low.
 - d. Bird Flu – Highly pathogenic in County. Asking people to not handle dead birds and to contact Animal Control. Most bird deaths are due to Avian flu. Only 1 case transferred to Human in US and that was a couple years ago.
 - e. Ebola – Keeping a close eye on it to determine if we need to change EMS protocols and dispatch changes. Monitoring travelers from Uganda.
5. Watsonville Community Hospital
 - a. Ribbon cutting ceremony in the parking lot from 2pm-4pm today.
6. EMS Administrator Report – provided by Emily
 - a. Update on the EMS recruitment. We have found a top candidate, a conditional offer was made. Cannot make official announcement until processing is complete, which should be in 2-3 weeks.

7. Prehospital Advisory Committee
 - a. Dr. Ghilarducci has a meeting after today's meeting to discuss video laryngoscopy devices, policy to clean up in trauma triage criteria. No other major issues to discuss.
8. ET3/Innovator report
 - a. Alex Aste reported a new software swap due to IT issues, stats are good, ET# is up.
 - b. Benchlands impacted EMS. Calls remain steady, OD's have dropped. OD map is a good tool now that Benchlands is closing and OD's will be more spread out in County.
9. Air Ambulance
 - a. Mike Esslinger reports on difficult decision to stand down on the build out for Watsonville Base for 2023. Three factors in this decision are call demand and economics, currently there are 2 aircraft within 25 miles of Watsonville Base. Staffing is the second challenge and third is the economics of the build out itself. The property will be retained to use as regional maintenance center. In conflict with the last update but honest answer for 2023 doesn't believe they will be moving forward with build out. Hoping things will change to where the build out can proceed at some point, but it won't be in 2023. This was communicated to AMR this morning. Celia asked No base for CalStar, which Mike stated is correct. However, they will be able to use staffing from Salinas. For consistency and service, we will continue to see what is happening today. Expect to have same level of service. Unfortunately, aircraft based out of Watsonville airport is some time away.
10. AMR Agreement
 - a. AMR Contract Amendment Update – BOS asked for additional follow-up with fire chiefs. Productive conversations were had and ongoing support with data requests and sharing of data will continue. Will be going before the BOS on 10/18/2022 to provide update regarding conversations with Dr. Ghilarducci and fire agencies (WATS) prepared to speak to it, if necessary. Do not expect any additional delays from BOS.
11. Kaiser
 - a. No update, no rep at meeting. Have not broken ground on new site. Dan Quinto's personal observation is the project may be on hold.
12. Dominican Remodel
 - a. No real update. Waiting on approval for moving forward on the remodel.
 - b. Dan Quinto asked about ambulance access and ground breaking update. There is no timeline from Dominican, but knows it has been delayed. No knowledge of access to ED impacts. Report/update will be brought back for next meeting.
13. Update on 5150 at Telecare
 - a. Chris Clark reported Telecare on diversion daily. Prognosis doesn't appear to be good and there is not a good short term solution currently. This is a troubling issue and likely that Dominican will continue to bear the brunt of these types of calls.
14. Items for December meeting
 - a. Maritime MCI Planning – Kent volunteered to assist with this item, Claudia Garza to provide contact info.
 - b. Marc Yellin asked about filling Threfall's vacancy with Behavioral Health.
 - c. Claudia Garza will provide update on status of Reddinet for Telecare.
 - d. ET3, Brad Cramer, intake and process at jail.
15. Adjournment: motion made to adjourn at 09:45 AM.

Commissioners in attendance:

Dan Quinto, AMR
Celia Barry
Chris Clark, S.O.

Kent Benedict, MD
Arnold Leff, MD
Jason Nee

Amy Grooters, RN
Rich Rubin
Eric Conrad

Commissioners Excused:

Marc Yellin
Marcus Kwan

Guests:

Kent Cramer
Jerry Souza, RN
Paul Angelo, RN
Jeff Horner
Scottv (??)

Michael Esslinger
Brad Cramer
Becky Shoemaker
Greg Benson
PK (??)

Alex Aste
Michael Baulch, RN,
Dan Chavez

County Staff:

Dr. David Ghilarducci, MD
Emily Chung
Claudia Garza
Shelley Huxtable