



# County of Santa Cruz

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## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
SERVICES PROGRAM

## PREHOSPITAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)

### MINUTES

MARCH 3, 2008

**Present:** Kent Benedict, Maureen Sullivan, Rayette Andrews, Lisa Angell, Celia Barry, Beth Landes, Lawrence Erickson, Scott Weyland, Brad Cramer, Scott Vahradian, Pete Kushner, Brenda Brenner, Greg Vandervoort, Sonya Ruiz, Hilda Chelstowski, Marc Yellin, Priscilla Leighton, Dan Quinto

February's meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

### **1. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Diversion Policy and QI – There was a discussion of the need to review clinical consequences of high acuity patients by-passing the closer hospital. Acuity 5 patients are supposed to go to the closest hospital regardless of hospital diversion status. In 2007, there were 20 patients of acuity 4 diverted from the closer hospital. In 2007, 109 acuity 3 patients were diverted to the farther hospital. Zero acuity 5 patients were diverted. There was a further discussion of the impact of hospital diversions on the system. Ambulances sent to the farther hospital are “out of position” for the next call, potentially making the response late. In 2007, Dominican received zero patients from air ambulances. Air ambulances could be used to take patients to the farther hospital. More beds are needed to solve diversion issue. Field medic concerns: status 4 patients going to the farther facility and the “when” the patient is diverted. When the wheels start rolling towards the hospital, the patient goes to that hospital, regardless of whether or not the facility goes red AFTER the patient starts transport. Ambulance wait time to off load patients at the hospitals is increasing. This has not reached the level that it is in other areas. Kent should be informed if wait times are increasing at the hospitals. Take the issue to the EMCC – PAC is very concerned about capacity of EMS system to handle patients – hospital overload, limited EMS resources strained by diversions, concerned public is not aware of issues. Celia will

prepare statement for EMCC on issue. The CQI committee should review the status 4 patients.

## **2. REPORTS**

1. EMS Administrator Report-There will be a burn presentation on Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 11:30am at Aptos/La Selva Fire Department. The speaker is Jill Sproul, RN, from VMC's Burn Unit. The report to the Board of Supervisors on February 12<sup>th</sup> regarding Emergency Department diversions was received on the consent agenda. No questions were asked. The County budget for next fiscal year will result in many cuts.
  1. Electronic PCR Report – Beth had a handout evaluating the vendors who presented last month. WebPCR is on some of the MDCs in AMRs units. There are still some problems.
  2. EMSsystem Report – Postponed due to lengthy discussion on diversions.
2. EMSIA Report – Scott – Lifepak 12 seems to be the likeliest product for new 12 lead monitor.
3. AMR Report – Brad – Board of Supervisors meeting tomorrow should approve the pediatric fast pack and CPAP monies. EZ-IO/King Tube audit almost completed – should be on agenda for April.

## **3. OLD BUSINESS – UPDATES**

1. Trauma – Update – May only produce a Medical Executive report on trauma this year instead of a forum.
2. Policy & Procedure Committee – Update – Celia will set a new meeting date. Among the issues to discuss: trauma triage, changes in hypothermia, burn policy, 12 lead policy, diversions. Please email Celia directly with any examples of the new policy for air ambulance cancellation policy creating problems (requires that BLS IC cancel air ambulance in consultation with on-scene ALS medical). Air ambulance providers are also requested to send to Celia any cases where cancellation should have occurred but couldn't because on-scene ALS hadn't arrived.
3. CPAP – Waiting approval for grant funding for this project.
4. WestMed/Monterey – Kent and Celia will meet with Tom Lynch and the Monterey County EMS Medical Director soon. Discuss trauma and transfers.
5. EKG Monitors – already discussed.

6. Cardiac Arrest Study – CDC CARES project links data and cardiac arrest care to determine effectiveness. Study is similar to what Brad and Scott produced with the two hospitals. The CARES principal investigator will be speaking to EMDAC in March. San Francisco is the only system in the state reporting to the CARES project. Kent will ask if there are grant funds available for the project.
7. Medic Recognition – First meeting follows today's PAC.

#### **4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Central Coast Ambulance was purchased by John and Hilda Chelstowski and continues to operate in San Benito, Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties.

Agenda for next meeting:  
King Tube/EZ-IO audit

**The next PAC meeting will be on Monday, April 7 at Aptos/La Selva Fire at 8:30am**

Health Services Agency website: [www.santacruzhealth.org](http://www.santacruzhealth.org)