



El Dorado County Emergency Services Authority

JPA Board of Directors IFT Workshop Minutes

Wednesday, May 22, 2019 – 12:30 p.m.
Diamond Springs Fire, 501 Main Street, Diamond Springs, CA 95619

Pledge of Allegiance: Conducted

1. Call to Order/Introductions - Call to order at 12:38 p.m.

Board Attendees:

- | | |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CAL FIRE - Cameron Park Fire, Div. Chief Sherry Moranz | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternate Battalion Chief Jed Gaines |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CAL FIRE ECC AEU, Unit Chief Scott Lindgren, Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alternate Battalion Chief Brian Newman |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diamond Springs Fire, Chief Bryan Ransdell | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternate Deputy Chief Ken Earle |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> El Dorado County Fire, Interim Chief Lloyd Ogan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alternate Division Chief Tim Cordero |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> El Dorado Hills Fire, Chief Maurice Johnson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alternate EDH Board of Dir., John Giraudo |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garden Valley Fire, Chief Clive Savacool, Vice Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternate Battalion Chief Jon Michaelson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Georgetown Fire, Asst. Chief Mike Blankenheim (CAL FIRE) | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternate Battalion Chief Dave Wood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mosquito Fire, Chief Eddie Dwyer | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternate Battalion Chief Dion Nugent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pioneer Fire, Chief Mark Matthews | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternate Captain Greg Morford |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rescue Fire, Deputy Chief Mike Lilienthal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alternate Deputy Chief Dave Brady |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marshall Medical Center, Exec. Dir. Maia Schneider | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JPA Representative Sherrie Kelley | |

Guests:

- José C. Henríquez, LAFCO
- Sue Hennike, El Dorado County
- Michelle Patterson, El Dorado County
- Jim Hartley, El Dorado Hills Fire Board of Directors
- Larry Schmidt, Marshall Medical Center
- Michele Williams, Marshall Medical Center
- Martin Entwistle, Marshall Medical Center
- Jill Shanko, Marshall Medical Center
- Ryan Wagoner, Cal Tahoe JPA

Other Attendees:

- Division Chief Paul Dutch, El Dorado County Fire
- Assistant Chief Bob Bement, Garden Valley Fire

2. Approval of Agenda

Director Johnson motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Director Moranz seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. Interfacility Transfers

3.1 Discuss the JPA's Financial Challenges with the Master Contract

While the JPA is trending to come in at or under budget this fiscal year, there are future financial issues that must be addressed. Work is currently being done to mitigate issues and reduce the JPA's spending.

3.2 Review 2018 Code 2 and Code 3 IFT Call Volume Reports

The committee reviewed the 2018 Code 2 and Code 3 IFT call volume reports. The Code 3 IFTs are not a concern for the JPA, only the Code 2 IFTs. The impact on the county's ALS system is being stressed with so many IFT's that take units out of service for extended periods of time.

The JPA defines an IFT as picking up a patient from any facility, not just Marshall Medical Center, and transporting that patient to another facility or home.

3.3 Review and Discuss JPA's Legal Counsel Opinion of Master Contract/Ambulance Ordinance

The JPA's legal counsel provided the following opinion regarding the JPA's responsibility under the master contract to provide IFTs that originate in the county and terminate outside of the county.

The Contract requires the JPA to provide prehospital transportation to acute care hospitals outside of the county at the direction of Marshall Medical Center only if Marshall Medical Center has not yet assumed responsibility for the patient.

The contract's definition of "Advanced Life Support" is copied from California Health and Safety Code section 1797.52, and includes "special services designed to provide definitive prehospital emergency medical care" with the limitation that those services are provided "until responsibility is assumed by the emergency or other medical staff of that hospital." (Article 1, compare with H&S Code § 1797.52.) The County's Emergency Medical Services and Medical Transportation Ordinance contains an identical definition. (Ordinance 8.74.040.)

There is no further definition of "prehospital emergency medical care" in the contract, County Ordinances, or state statues. However, the common-sense, plain meaning of the term "prehospital" is care provided before arrival at a hospital. After a patient has been admitted to a hospital, subsequent transfer to a different facility is not "prehospital" transport and does not provide "prehospital" services in the plain meaning of the term.

The JPA's "Primary Response Area" is defined as the boundaries of CSA 7. (Article II, Section 2.2.) The JPA is responsible for "100% of the emergency and non-emergency prehospital Advanced Life Support calls that are dispatched by the designated dispatch center that originate within the JPA's Primary Response Area [CSA 7]." (Id.)

Considering all of the definitions above and the JPA's responsibilities in the contract, when transport originates in CSA 7, the JPA is responsible for providing emergency response and non-emergency response services during transportation to Marshall Medical Center (the Base Hospital), or to an acute care hospital or other health care facility at the direction of Marshall Medical Center before Marshall Medical Center has taken responsibility for a patient.

A common-sense reading of the word "prehospital" and the contract's scope of services supports the conclusion that the JPA is only responsible for IFTs that terminate outside of the County if Marshall Medical Center has not already taken responsibility for a patient. If Marshall Medical Center has already admitted a patient and sometime later (perhaps hours or days later) it requests a transfer out of county, that does not fit within the definition of "ALS" in the Contract, statute, and County Ordinance, or the common-sense definition of "prehospital" emergency medical care.

The following items were discussed:

- Throughout California it is typically the hospital's responsibility for transporting patients, which is usually performed by a contracted agency.
- The main issue for the JPA is the impact to the system when an ambulance is out of service for an extended time.

- The option of the JPA adding a half-time medic unit to help alleviate the issue is not feasible due to financial reasons.
- Is there a solution to the financial restraints the JPA is facing?
- The County sets the IFT rate by looking at comparable agencies.
- Can IFTs be scheduled at specific times?
 - Due to a lack of beds at facilities, when one becomes available it must be held at that time.
- An “urgent” transfer has no classification. It falls between Code 3 and Code 2.
- The JPA values its relationship with Marshall, but it is not legally bound to provide the IFT service out of the County.
- If the IFTs are outsourced they would need to operate on a rotational basis.
- Is there financial incentive for an outside agency to be interested in providing the transports?
- The County is trying to obtain the amount of revenue generated by the IFTs.

3.4 Review and Discuss County’s Legal Counsel Opinion of Master Contract/Ambulance Ordinance

The County is unable to provide a written legal opinion at this time due to the appeal on the denial of the EMS plan at the state level. The County does acknowledge that it is not the JPA’s responsibility to provide IFTs that terminate outside of CSA 7 and that anyone that is certified in the County can provide transfer services. Currently AMR and Sac Valley Ambulance are the only two certified providers.

3.5 Discuss Marshall Medical Center’s IFT Needs/Impact to facility

- Based on the last four months of data from Image Trend, there were 5,071 patient transports. The average is 5.9 transfers per day, 3.5 of which were outside of the county.
- From an ER standpoint, ensuring that the patient gets to where they need to go in a timely manner is very important. Waiting on an ambulance from Sacramento may take too much time.
 - The JPA reminded Marshall that CCTs will still be performed by the JPA. The JPA is only concerned about the Code 2 IFTs that terminate outside of CSA 7.
- The population of El Dorado County is the biggest concern. Everyone needs to understand we are all servicing the same population.
- Long-term solutions are needed in order to obtain additional facilities/services within El Dorado County.

3.6 Status of certifying Non-JPA Providers

- AMR and Sac Valley Ambulance are currently the only two certified providers. Nor-Cal Ambulance did not meet the insurance requirements.
- Pro-Transport and Priority One have been staging in the County.
- Marshall uses Sac Valley Ambulance and AMR for inpatient transfers if the JPA is not available.
- Per the System Status Management policy, transports are denied between 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. if the JPA does not have the capacity.

4. **Identify Next Steps**

The following items were discussed:

- Marshall needs to utilize private ambulance companies for non-emergency transports.
- El Dorado Hills Fire is exploring the option of starting an ambulance company.
- Marshall needs to work with the County to get more transport companies certified.
- Marshall can acquire their own ambulance for transports or contract out for the service.
- The more outside agencies that are utilized will affect the funding available for the 911 system.
- The outside agencies that are already being utilized have their own billing system.
- Can we have a contract with one provider and still be non-exclusive?
- The County is concerned with jeopardizing the 224 rights and making any big changes while they are in the appeal process with the State.
- The County needs to provide the revenue associated with the IFTs along with the rate of transfers.
- There may not be any additional funding available from the County.

- If the JPA stops the out of county transfers, then Sacramento County will not have to move up to cover our service area, therefore allowing the JPA to respond to their own calls, which would lessen or eliminate any revenue loss. Currently Sacramento County responds to seven to fifteen calls a month in our service area.
- The JPA requested that Marshall take steps immediately to seek other agencies for their out of county Code 2 transfers.
- The County feels the master contract was made with the intent that the JPA would do the transfers even though it is not spelled out in the contract, but the JPA states that contractually they are not legally obligated to perform transfers that terminate outside of CSA 7 based on the language the County placed in the contract. If it was the County's intent for the JPA to perform these transfers then the County should have placed the appropriate language in the contract.
- In addition to the wear and tear on the vehicles and all associated costs with those issues, the employee fatigue issue also needs to be considered.
- Since the IFTs are non-exclusive as outlined in the master contract, the County will determine if a contract can be made with another vendor.

Conclusions:

- Marshall, upon approval by its executive team, will place the JPA last on the approved vendor transport list for IFTs that terminate outside of Sacramento County or Placer County.
- The JPA will schedule a second workshop in July.

11. Adjournment

Director Johnson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:23 p.m. Director Lilienthal seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.