

**Solano Emergency Medical Services Cooperative (SEMSC)
Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2020; 9:00AM – 10:30AM
Suisun City Hall**

BOARD MEMBERS

- Birgitta Corsello, Chair, SEMSC Board
- Joshua Chadwick, Fire Chiefs Representative
- Caesar Djavaherian, Physicians' Forum Representative
- Greg Folsom, City Managers Representative
- Thea Giboney, Medical Professional Representative
- John Jansen, Healthcare Consumer Representative
- David Piccinati, Medical Professional Representative

STAFF

- Ted Selby, EMS Administrator
- Bela Matyas, Public Health Officer
- Rachelle Canones, Administrative Secretary
- Keith Erickson, EMS Coordinator
- Benjamin Gammon, EMS Coordinator
- Colleen Hogan, Health Education Specialist

| AGENDA ITEMS | DISCUSSION | ACTION | RESPONSIBLE |
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| 1. <u>Call to Order</u> | | (none) | |
| 2. <u>Introduction of New County Counsel Representative</u> | New County Counsel Representative Jo Ann Iwasaki Parker was introduced. Ms. Parker had previously been the County Counsel Representative to SEMSC and worked with Medic and Fairfield Fire on establishing the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Agreement with all the stakeholders. | | |
| 3. <u>Roll Call</u> | Meeting called to order with a quorum present. Board Member Piccinati was late. | | |
| 4. <u>Closed Session</u> | SEMSC Board went into closed session to consult with legal counsel regarding anticipated litigation (Gov't Code section 54956.9(d)(2)) | | |
| 5. <u>Report of Action in Closed Session</u> | County Counsel announced that by a vote of 6 AYES and 1 ABSTENTION , the SEMSC Board has authorized counsel to negotiate a resolution to the matter brought before the Board in closed session. | | |

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| <p>6. <u>Approval of Agenda</u></p> | <p>Board Member Chadwick recognized there is an update in the EMS Administrator's report regarding Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD), however a request was made at the last SEMSC Board Meeting to add EMD to the standing Agenda. Mr. Selby stated EMD will be added to the standing Agenda for future meetings.</p> <p>Board Member Chadwick moved to approve the agenda. Board Member Jansen seconded. AYES: 6; NAYS: 0; ABSENT: 0; ABSTAIN: 0;</p> | | |
| <p>7. <u>Approval of the Minutes of April 11, 2019</u></p> | <p>Board Member Jansen moved to approve the Minutes of April 11, 2019. Board Chair Corsello seconded. Board Members Folsom and Piccinati abstained. AYES: 5; NAYS: 0; ABSENT: 0; ABSTAIN: 2;</p> | | |
| <p>7. <u>Approval of the Minutes of the June 13, 2019 Special Meeting</u></p> | <p>Board Member Folsom moved to approve the Minutes of June 13, 2019 Special Meeting. Board Member Jansen seconded. AYES: 7; NAYS: 0; ABSENT: 0; ABSTAIN: 0;</p> | | |
| <p>8. <u>Items from the Public</u></p> | <p>(None)</p> | | |
| <p>9. <u>Reports</u> a. <u>Medical Director's Report</u></p> | <p>a. Dr. Bryn Mumma, EMS Medical Director provided various reports:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discipline Actions – There are currently three (3) active Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) cases, and seven (7) EMT probations. Since the last SEMSC Meeting, one (1) probation was completed, one (1) certification surrendered, one (1) revocation, one (1) temporary suspension order (TSO) was issued, one (1) paramedic accreditation revoked, one (1) paramedic accreditation suspended and reinstated, and four (4) cases referred to the California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) for paramedic licensure investigation. | | |

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| <p>b. <u>Administrator's Report</u></p> | <p>2. Policy and Protocol Changes – No new policies and protocols to report. A list of policy and protocol updates is included in the meeting packet.</p> <p>b. Ted Selby, EMS Administrator, provided an update on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General Update <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Hermie Zulueta, EMS Operations Supervisor, retired in December 2019. b. The Auditor-Controller has changed. This is mentioned because the audit for FY 2016/2017 was not performed during the required time frame. To rectify this, the Auditor-Controller's Office (ACO) completed a two-year audit for FY 2016/2017 and FY 2017/2018. A copy of the final report will be forwarded to the SEMSC Board shortly. No significant findings were recorded during this audit. c. Mr. Selby thanked Medic Ambulance, the local fire and police departments, the Sheriff's Office, the local schools, and the Solano County Fairgrounds for making this year's Statewide Medical and Health Exercise (SWMHE) a success 2. System Update <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. System Performance – Response time statistics for the first quarter of Fiscal Year (FY) 2019/2020 for Medic Ambulance are at an average of 99%. The PPP Fire Departments' response time averages are as follows: <div style="text-align: center; margin-left: 40px;"> <u>1st Quarter FY 19/20</u> <table border="0" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>• Benicia</td> <td>–</td> <td>98%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Dixon</td> <td>–</td> <td>96%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Fairfield</td> <td>–</td> <td>92%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Vallejo</td> <td>–</td> <td>92%</td> </tr> </table> </div> b. Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) – The meeting packet has a lengthy narrative covering the subject of EMD. Since the information is provided in writing Mr. Selby pointed out certain aspects of the report contained in the package. | • Benicia | – | 98% | • Dixon | – | 96% | • Fairfield | – | 92% | • Vallejo | – | 92% | | |
| • Benicia | – | 98% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| • Dixon | – | 96% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| • Fairfield | – | 92% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| • Vallejo | – | 92% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| | <p>There is a synopsis of Senate Bill (SB) 438 which came from the Legislative Counsel’s Digest. This report also talks about the current status of EMD in Solano County, which presently has two (2) communication centers that provide some level of EMD, primarily Pre-Arrival Instruction (PAI). These are the Cities of Vacaville and Fairfield.</p> <p>Mr. Selby also emphasized that the Physicians’ Forum is working to finalize the necessary protocols to move forward with implementation.</p> <p>Funding options are being explored, not only through generated revenue but also through grants and other funding sources that may be available. Lastly, the report provides a projected timeline that begins in March of 2020, and concludes at the end of 2022. The details are in the meeting packet. Board Member Djavaherian noted that this is great news.</p> <p>c. Many local EMS Agencies (LEMSA) have instituted stroke programs in their jurisdictions and are finding that the data collection, the tracking, trending, and standardized approach to managing stroke victims is contributing to improved outcomes. Furthermore, EMSA has been working on guidelines, encouraging LEMSAs to adopt and implement stroke programs. Physicians’ Forum and the Process Improvement Committees are working on this, and looking at how this program can be implemented in Solano County. Mr. Selby added that this may come to fruition before the year ends.</p> <p>3. Announcements – Mr. Selby announced that the EMS Agency is working on planning for EMS Week activities and Annual Summit. Information will be made available soon, as arrangements are still being finalized. The 46th Annual National EMS Week is on May 17-23, 2020.</p> | | |
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| | <p>Board Chair Corsello asked if there were any questions from the Board for the EMS Administrator. Board Member Jansen asked about EMS reporting to the State and the new software that he had previously inquired about directly.</p> <p>Mr. Selby responded that Solano EMS has processed a contract with ESO Solutions, Inc. that will allow the EMS Agency to collect data associated with patient care reports (PCR), transportation information, etc. The system is capable of collecting outcome data and other data sets in partnership with healthcare organizations.</p> <p>This vendor was selected in consultation with our healthcare partners who indicated that they are interested in seeing this information as well. The EMS Agency should have this software and data repository in place by the next Board Meeting. This software will allow Solano EMS to report both California Emergency Medical Services Information System (CEMSIS) and National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS) required data to the State directly. Mr. Selby added that the EMS Agency is also working closely with Vacaville Fire Department.</p> <p>Board Member Chadwick inquired as to whether ESO will be able to work with the software of the other providers in the County. Mr. Selby explained that ESO has the ability to extract the data from the PCRs of other providers.</p> <p>Board Member Jansen further asked about expected implementation date, and whether the system will be able to extract and include past data. Mr. Selby explained that the County's Department of Information Technology (DoIT) is working with the EMS Agency on this process and there is no specific implementation date that has been set, but it may be implemented by April 2020.</p> | | |
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| | <p>Board Chair Corsello, stated that the Board expects an update with more specific information, including the status of the ESO contract and when ESO is anticipated to go live.</p> <p>Board Chair Corsello requested clarification on how far Board Member Jansen would like the data to go back. Board Member Jansen indicated it may be helpful if three to five years' worth of information could be collected. He further emphasized that there should be data available to back up EMS-related decision making, and even a year of past data would be good.</p> <p>Board Chair Corsello agreed that there should be more emphasis on getting the data moving forward, but it would be helpful if some of the history would be available as well.</p> <p>Board Member Djavaheerian asked about current data flow, and how effective the EMS Agency is at communicating this with the providers in the community. Mr. Selby explained that data is presented to the local providers at the EMS quarterly meetings, where high level data reports are presented. In regard to the collection methodology, some information is received electronically, but some, such as those from smaller providers, may only be scanned PCRs, which require staff to manually tally numbers. Providers like Medic Ambulance allow the EMS Agency to access their data, run reports, and audit or spot check, which allows the agency to report out more easily. Vacaville Fire is working closely with Solano EMS to provide requested information, and is working towards providing EMS staff full access to their data, similar to the access provided by Medic Ambulance.</p> <p>Board Member Djavaheerian observed that a lot of labor is expended responding to inquiries for data that come to the Agency. Mr. Selby affirmed that that is correct, and this is where ESO may prove helpful.</p> <p>Board Member Djavaheerian inquired if some of the budget increases are going towards these new projects, and if the Board can expect to see more robust information in the future.</p> | <p>Provide interim report to the Board prior to April meeting, on status of ESO, including expected time frame, inclusion of past data, and level of effort required; Agendize an update on ESO including these items as well as details on data collection, etc. at next Board Meeting.</p> | <p>EMS Staff</p> |
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| <p>c. <u>Medic Ambulance Operator's Report</u></p> | <p>Mr. Selby explained that the budget actually decreased from the previous year, but some of the proposed line item increases will indeed go towards sustaining these projects, and it is anticipated that vast improvements will be seen in the data that will be available in the coming year.</p> <p>Board Member Djavaheerian also asked if the EMS Medical Director is familiar with the ESO software, to which it was explained that Dr. Mumma is familiar with ESO only in vague terms.</p> <p>Board Chair Corsello reiterated that the Board expects an interim report on ESO, based on questions raised, as well as an item on the Agenda at the next Board Meeting to provide an update.</p> <p>c. James Pierson, President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Medic Ambulance began by expounding on Board Member Jansen's question, and stated that adding past data to ESO would likely not be an issue, and the system can likely go back to at least 2017.</p> <p>Mr. Pierson emphasized that ESO is a well-known product, and that it is exciting to imagine that ESO will allow them to more easily share data with partner hospitals Kaiser, NorthBay, and Sutter. Furthermore, it will allow them to obtain hospital outcome data. This software will also be useful when the county begins implementing EMD. The County will be able to see the resources being sent Code 3, how many intravenous lines are being started, how many patients are being transported Code 2 or Code 3, and how many of those are getting discharged 80% of the time.</p> <p>In regard to implementation date, Mr. Pierson speculated that it will likely be January 2021 before it goes live, pointing out that Sacramento County took about nine to ten months to implement.</p> <p>Mr. Pierson emphasized that ESO is the right purchase, and this software will bring the County ahead as far as technology in managing the local EMS data system.</p> | | |
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| | <p>Medic announced that 2019 was a good year for the company. This year saw Medic celebrate their 40th anniversary, and the retirement of their founder, Rudy Manfredi. Mr. Pierson expressed gratitude for everything that Mr. Manfredi has done for Medic Ambulance, which continues to be a family business. It was added that Helen Pierson is now the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), following his retirement.</p> <p>This year, Medic went through their accreditation process with the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Service (CAAS). Medic Ambulance is proud to announce that in October 2019, they received a perfect score, with no deficiencies, and received the full three-year accreditation. Medic also passed their accreditation with the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch (IAED), where they are an Accredited Center of Excellence (ACE). It was noted that Medic continues to be one of 31 ambulance services in the world to hold both a CAAS and ACE accreditation.</p> <p>Mr. Pierson shared that currently Medic has a ring-down line with their public safety access point (PSAP) partners. They are now working on establishing a computer-aided dispatch (CAD) link with the Solano County Sheriff's Office (SO), and have just gone live with the City of Suisun. The CAD link also provides a geo-code for better accuracy. This technology helps reduce response times.</p> <p>Medic, Fairfield Fire, and NorthBay Healthcare also implemented use of the LUCAS© mechanical chest compression device (LUCAS© device) with the City of Fairfield and the City of Suisun. This coalition deployed a total of 11 devices in the community, with seven (7) in Fairfield, two (2) in Suisun, and two (2) in Medic supervisor's vehicles.</p> <p>The coalition also conducts public outreach events teaching the general public hands-only CPR. Ryan LaRowe from Fairfield Fire created a hands-only CPR kiosk costing only \$2,500, a fraction of the cost of going through the American Heart Association (AHA) which would cost \$150,000 per year for three years. Now there are two such kiosks in the community that were built by Mr. LaRowe. Mr. Pierson thanked the Fairfield Fire Department for their help.</p> | | |
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| | <p>Furthermore, this program received the Community Impact of the Year award from the American Ambulance Association and the California Ambulance Association. Mr. Pierson gave kudos Fairfield Fire, NorthBay Healthcare, and Medic for their work on this project.</p> <p>Medic deployed strike teams to the Kincaide Fire last year, sending ten ambulances, two strike team leaders, and their Disaster Medical Services Unit (DMSU). They have also created an “ambu-bus,” which is a medical ambulance bus with Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Basic Life Support (BLS) capabilities. It can transport over 24 patients (18 laying down). This resource has the potential to move a lot of patients quickly during an emergency. This ambulance bus is one of only three existing resources in California, two in San Francisco, and now one in Solano County.</p> <p>Mr. Pierson also discussed the “Every 15 Minutes” Program which they will be conducting in March 2020, together with the Rotary Club of Fairfield and Suisun, NorthBay Healthcare, the City of Fairfield’s Fire and Police Departments, and the Solano County SO. This program is a drunk driver awareness training for high school students. They anticipate about 20-25 students from Armijo and Rodriguez High School will participate. It was noted that this program has not been done in the City of Fairfield for about 19 years. The two-day event will be held on March 16-17, 2020 at Armijo High School, including a night retreat. The next day there is a school assembly with a presentation that includes one from Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). The same program will be repeated at Rodriguez High School on March 19-20, 2020.</p> <p>This program is done regularly in the Cities of Dixon, Rio Vista, and Benicia. Mr. Pierson concluded the presentation by thanking the community partners who make programs like this possible.</p> | | |
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| <p>10. Regular Meeting Items:</p> <p>a. Select Vice Chair for 2020</p> <p>b. Approval of the 2020 Meeting Schedule</p> | <p>a. Board Chair Corsello stated that the Board needs to select a Vice Chair for the remainder of 2019, and asked for nominations or volunteers. Board Member Chadwick requested clarification since a Vice Chair was just nominated at the last meeting. Board Chair Corsello explained that the Bylaws require that a Vice Chair be elected annually. Board Member Chadwick nominated Board Member Jansen for Vice Chair.</p> <p>Board Member Chadwick moved to select Board Member Jansen as Vice Chair. Board Member Djavaheerian seconded. AYES: 7; NAYS: 0; ABSENT: 0; ABSTAIN: 0;</p> <p>b. Board Chair Corsello stated that it might be helpful to get the meetings for the year on the Board Members' calendars. Board Chair Corsello asked the EMS Administrator to speak on the matter of how the current meeting schedule was established.</p> <p>Mr. Selby stated that the SEMSC Board resolved in 2005 that the meetings are expected to occur on a quarterly basis on the first month of each quarter, choosing the second Thursday of the month as the standing meeting date. Adhering to this resolution, staff recommends approval of this meeting schedule as follows: January 9, April 9, July 9 and October 8 of 2020.</p> <p>Board Member Djavaheerian moved to approve the 2020 meeting schedule. Board Member Jansen seconded. AYES: 7; NAYS: 0; ABSENT: 0; ABSTAIN: 0;</p> | | |
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| <p>c. Review and Consider Approval of Annual SEMSC Budget/Revenue Allocation Plan for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020/2021, and Adoption of Resolution 20-001</p> | <p>c. The EMS Administrator gave an overview of the budget proposal for FY 2020/2021, and a stated that that a copy of the Budget/Revenue Allocation Plan is included in the Board Meeting packet. Mr. Selby discussed the SEMSC Reserves, explaining that these monies have historically been reserved for legal fees, other unanticipated expenses, and sometimes also used to balance the annual budget. At present, the reserves balance is \$217,369. These funds are reviewed annually at the end of the fiscal year, and used if needed to balance the SEMSC budget.</p> <p>In the last year, Mr. Selby explained that the Board had asked for a comparison between this year's proposed budget versus the projected allocation from the previous year. Under expenses, in FY 2019/2020, the budget for Salaries and Benefits was \$992,743; For FY 2020/2021 it was decreased to \$925,000.</p> <p>This is a net decrease of \$67,743 due to re-allocation of staff workloads, shifting some of the duties to the Emergency Preparedness and Response Program where there is some grant funding available, as long it would not conflict with the grant requirements.</p> <p>The budget for Services and Supplies was \$1,910,900 for FY 2019/2020. For FY 2020/2021, the proposed budget decreased by \$119,900 to \$1,791,000.</p> <p>This was attributed primarily to higher Pass-Through payments to the Private Public Partnership (PPP) Cities in the last year due to back-payments on behalf of a third party.</p> <p>Transfers outside Health and Social Services (H&SS), which includes monies paid to the Auditor-Controller's Office (ACO) for auditing SEMSC, County Counsel for their representation, etc. are almost identical from FY 2019/2020 and the proposed budget, with an increase of only \$2,000. The budget for FY 2019-2020 was \$32,000, and it is \$34,000 for FY 2020/2021.</p> | | |
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| | <p>Transfers within H&SS increased \$1,000 from \$81,000 in FY 2019/2020 to \$82,000 in FY 2020/2021. This line item is for administrative overhead, which includes the facility fee, electricity, the support of payroll clerks in H&SS, etc.</p> <p>The total expenses budgeted for FY 2019/2020, which ends June 30, 2020 was \$3,016,643. The total expenses in the proposed budget for FY 2020/2021 that the Board is being asked to review and approve today is \$2,832,000. The overall budgeted expenses decreased by \$184,643.</p> <p>Under Revenue, in FY 2019/2020, the License, Permits & Franchise fees were projected to be \$1,190,500. In the proposed budget for FY 2020/2021, this was reduced to \$975,000, which represents a net decrease of \$215,500, primarily due to a projected decrease in designation fees collected, as well as a decrease to the anticipated ALS ambulance franchise fees to be collected, since it was previously projected that there will be a bid going out for a new exclusive operating area (EOA) provider .</p> <p>The projected amount for Fines, Forfeitures, Penalties & Assessments in FY 2019/2020 was \$20,000. This has been decreased to \$16,000 for FY 2020/2021, with the BLS providers being more compliant with the EOA regulations resulting in reduced fines and penalties. Mr. Selby asked that the Board keep in mind that this is a projection for the next year.</p> <p>The Pass-Through Revenue was kept consistent for this budget proposal, in the amount of \$1,700,000. The same as last year.</p> | | |
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| | <p>In regard to Grant Allocation and Designated Funding, where there is a decrease of \$35,903 from FY 2019/2020 to FY 2020/2021. In the previous fiscal year, it was projected at \$90,903; in the proposed budget for the next fiscal period, it was decreased to \$55,000 based on some of the requirements and guidelines for the grants from Public Health and Preparedness, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), and where work has to be done, which is why shifting some responsibilities of EMS staff is also being considered.</p> <p>Regarding the Transfers from Reserves in FY 2019/2020 it was projected that \$9,240 from reserves would be used to balance the budget. For FY 2020/2021, it is projected that \$71,000 will be used to balance the budget. This is a projected increase of \$61,760, and is a worst-case scenario.</p> <p>Revenue from Use of Money/Property was projected to be at \$6,000 in FY 2019/2020, and is projected to be at \$15,000 for FY 2020/2021 after discussions with the fiscal analyst. The \$9,000 increase reflects the anticipated revenue from interest earned.</p> <p>The total revenue budgeted for FY 2019/2020 was \$3,016,643. The total revenue budgeted for FY 2020/2021 is \$2,832,000. This reflects a net decrease of \$184,643, which is the same amount that the projected expenses decreased.</p> <p>Board Chair Corsello commented that in the future, the Board would like to see in writing a chart comparing the previous year's budget, the actual budget, and the proposed budget for the next fiscal period.</p> <p>Board Member Piccinati asked if the reserve funds came from past budget surpluses. Mr. Selby confirmed that this is the case.</p> | | |
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| | <p>Board Member Piccinati further inquired as to whether there are any plans to increase the reserves in the future since the proposed budget is taking more money out of reserves in the next year.</p> <p>The EMS Administrator explained that while the Agency budgets for a full staff, some salary savings will be recognized, which may mean less money will come from the reserves. However, there may also be some unexpected expenses, such as legal expenses, that may come up, at which time money may also be drawn from the reserves. There has been no plan developed to increase the reserves other than the salary savings and revenue that goes unspent.</p> <p>Board Member Folsom wanted clarification on whether the reserves balance of \$217,369 quoted by Mr. Selby was before or after the proposed transfer of \$71,000 in the budget proposal. It was clarified that this amount is before the \$71,000 is taken out, leaving \$146,369 remaining reserves balance, provided that the full \$71,000 is utilized in the next fiscal period. Mr. Selby emphasized that while this amount is project to be withdrawn from the reserves, it is unlikely that it will be fully utilized, based on the salary savings that is expected with the current vacant positions.</p> <p>Board Member Jansen wanted more information on the reason for the increase from the transfers from reserves from about \$10,000 to \$71,000.</p> <p>Mr. Selby stated that the EMS Agency has not increased the revenue generated from designation fees, franchise fees, licenses, certificates, etc. in eight to ten years. However, the cost of labor, benefits, cost of living, services, goods and supplies have steadily increased. It was reiterated that the proposed budget already incorporates a 20% designation fee increase, as well as a 25% increase in EMT and Paramedic licensure and certificate fees, but the high-end projection for the Transfers from Reserves is still at \$71,000 to balance the budget.</p> | | |
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| | <p>The fees should have been adjusted accordingly over the course of time when there were increases in the cost of providing oversight and administration for the various programs.</p> <p>Furthermore, EMS staff have surveyed fees charged by the agencies in neighboring counties, and even with the proposed rate hike, Solano County's fees are still below what many of the neighboring jurisdictions assess.</p> <p>Board Member Folsom assumed that the proposed budget will begin on July 1, 2020, and with it being only January 2020, asked if the budget is normally approved this early, or if it would be more prudent to discuss this at the next Board Meeting. It was explained that the SEMSC Bylaws state that the budget must be approved at least 90 days prior to the start of the fiscal period, which would be April 1, and the next meeting is not until April 9, 2020.</p> <p>Board Member Djavaherian requested clarification on the line item for Grant Allocation and Designated Funding, particularly the Maddy Funds. Mr. Selby explained that Maddy Funds is a very restricted fund. The monies redirected to physicians at hospitals for uncompensated emergency services provided are not part of the EMS Agency's budget. However, there is a small portion of Maddy Funds that can be used for program-specific needs. Included in the budget for this line item are the funds approved for use for these specific programs that relate to trauma and pediatric outreach, etc. that have traditionally been done by Solano EMS during National EMS Week events. In the past the EMS Agency has worked with Kaiser, Medic, NorthBay, and Sutter on outreach programs and created the ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI), Trauma, Education, and Emergency Readiness (STEER) group for some collaborative outreach programs. It was reiterated that the Maddy Funds are highly restrictive, and can only be used as pre-determined by law.</p> | | |
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| | <p>Majority of the Maddy funds received are set aside for physicians and hospitals for emergency care for patients unable to pay for these services. The reimbursements for these are usually handled through Solano County Health & Social Services' fiscal department.</p> <p>Board Chair Corsello inquired further if the \$55,000 is solely from Maddy Funds. Mr. Selby explained that this amount is primarily other funds from public health emergency preparedness programs, such as ASPR, CDC, etc. which can be used within the EMS Agency.</p> <p>Board Member Djavaherian requested that this line item be broken down into what these grant fund revenues are being used for. Mr. Selby explained that these grant funds are mostly used for EMS Week activities, but it will be broken down into more detail in the future. Board Member Giboney requested that the EMS Administrator elaborate on the Licenses, Permits & Franchise fees, specifically the hospital designation fees, which is \$337,000 for FY 2020/2021 versus \$550,000 in FY 2019/2020. Mr. Selby explained that the difference is primarily from John Muir Medical Center-Walnut Creek and some out-of-county STEMI Receiving Centers (SRC) who are no longer paying the designation fees.</p> <p>Board Chair Corsello commented that she is personally not prepared to support the budget proposal as it is, and inquired of Counsel what the Board's options are, considering the 90-day requirement stated in the Bylaws. Counsel suggested either setting a special meeting to discuss the budget, and to pick a date 90-days prior to July 1, 2020; or to reschedule the April meeting to an earlier date. Counsel further clarified that it seems the Board is asking for additional information and written material that addresses the concerns being raised about the proposed budget.</p> | | |
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Board Chair Corsello inquired as how comfortable the other Board Members are with the amount of information provided to make an informed decision about the budget for FY 2020/2021. Majority of the Board Members shook their head no.

Ms. Corsello then asked if there was an interest in a Special Meeting to tackle the budget, or if the April meeting should be moved back to the end of March to comply with the Bylaws.

Board Member Chadwick asked if the Board can vote on a special exception for this year to approve the budget short of the 90-day requirement. County Counsel was hesitant to go with this option, because there is not enough information on the interplay between this proposed budget and the financial obligations the EMS Agency currently has, and the safer choice would be to choose a date that falls 90-days prior to the implementation of the next fiscal year's budget; For example, advancing the next meeting to April 1, 2020 or earlier.

Board Chair Corsello queried Counsel if another solution would be for the Board to preliminarily approve the proposed budget to meet the legal requirement stipulated in the Bylaws, and amend it at the April meeting if they are dissatisfied with the information provided. County Counsel agreed that this is an acceptable solution.

Board Chair Corsello requested public comments from this agenda item before moving forward (*Public Comment information is contained in Item 10.c on page 19*).

Board Member Djavaheerian suggested that the hospital council take inflation into consideration, especially in view of the fact that the fees have not increased in nine years. However, it is quite clear that the hospitals would like to have more services in return, as well as a better understanding of how the funds from the designation fees are used by the EMS Agency.

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| | <p>Board Member Jansen requested NorthBay and the Hospital Council of the East Bay representative to communicate their questions directly with EMS staff in order to get clearer answers that will be information for the Board as well.</p> <p>Board Member Folsom inquired as to whether a public hearing is required in order to increase fees, considering that SEMSC is a public agency. County Counsel stated that generally, this Board Meeting could count as a public hearing.</p> <p>Board Chair Corsello agreed that there should be a lot more structure with fee increases. In light of the need to approve the budget for July 1, 2020, with the Board having some opportunity to revisit this matter, and allow staff to respond to the questions raised by the two hospital systems, it appears that the Board has noticed all parties that there will be final decisions that will be made at the April 2020 Board Meeting. Board Chair Corsello asked Counsel what the Board needs to do in order to be in compliance with the Bylaws. Ms. Iwasaki Parker restated that the Board wishes to pass the budget, reserving certain areas preliminarily approving the budget and then identify the areas that will be revisited at the next meeting. However, Board Member Jansen suggested that the entire budget be reserved for review at the next meeting, since the Board needs more details before they can make an informed decision. County Counsel affirmed that this is acceptable.</p> <p>Board Chair Corsello reiterated that while the Board has met the initial requirement, they are not done with the budget or the fee increases. Board Member Giboney made an additional comment regarding the fee increases, stating that from a process perspective, the fees for Solano EMS are stated in Policy 3000, and wanted to know if there was a process that would go hand-in-hand with the fee increases being discussed. She also indicated she would like to see fee comparisons with other counties.</p> | <p>Agendize fee increase</p> <p>Provide more detail on the budget; additional information on what services are provided for the designation fees, what is the staffing, and what the staff do</p> <p>Provide fee comparison with similar neighboring counties; Bring Policy 3000 for review</p> | <p>Staff</p> <p>EMS Staff</p> <p>EMS staff</p> |
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| | <p>Board Member Djavaherian observed that a more detailed budget would be helpful to determine where accountability lays, and this is what the Board is asking for. It would likewise be helpful if the EMS Agency identify which staff member is in-charge of what area.</p> <p>Board Member Jansen moved to approve the preliminary SEMSC Budget/Revenue Allocation Plan for FY 2020/2021 for purposes of meeting the requirements of the Bylaws. The entire budget is subject to review and finalization at the April 2020 Board Meeting. Board Member Djavaherian seconded. AYES: 7; NAYS: 0; ABSENT: 0; ABSTAIN: 0;</p> | | |
| <p><u>Public Comments on Item 10.c</u></p> | <p>a. Steve Huddleston, Vice President of Public Affairs at NorthBay Healthcare addressed the Board regarding the proposed budget, stating that given the Board’s discussion and decision to go with a tentative budget with revisions in April, his comments may be slightly premature, but Mr. Huddleston wanted to make a couple of points. The proposed 20% increase in designation fees is not insignificant to NorthBay. However, they are willing to contribute to an EMS system that will focus on performance enhancement, helping with accreditation and survey readiness, and moving towards more evidence-based practice initiatives. In addition, it is heartening to hear that that the ESO contract is done so that a more robust data collection process may begin, which would be a great advancement. It was emphasized that the additional investment that they are going to make through the increase in fees, go not just to data collection and analysis, but also to some performance improvements, particularly in supporting the hospitals when they are surveyed by various accreditation and verification bodies.</p> | | |

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| | <p>Mr. Huddleston stated that his organization is interested in understanding where the monies from the designation fees go today. It was added that their organization has a long wish list of things that the County EMS system could help them with, such as preparing for surveys, facilitating the Trauma Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings making them more efficient and focused on program improvement. It is their understanding that currently there is not one individual in the EMS Agency that focuses specifically on trauma, STEMI, EDAP and stroke, while other counties have dedicated personnel who are tasked with this. While they would wholeheartedly support the fee increase, it is their hope that if the fee structure is being increased to be comparable with counties that have dedicated personnel, they would likewise receive comparable services. Mr. Huddleston stated that they will hold their questions and communicate with EMS staff so that when the budget is revisited there will be more specificity on where the money goes and what the new investment from the increased fees will be.</p> <p>b. Rebecca Rozen, Regional Vice President of the Hospital Council in the East Bay, a membership organization for hospitals in Alameda, Contra Costa, and Solano Counties. Ms. Rozen also expressed concern about the proposed 20% increase in designation fees. Given the Board's comments, she does support the idea of approving a preliminary budget and coming back to revisit the issue at the next meeting. Ms. Rozen added that the Board only heard from NorthBay, but Kaiser Permanente expressed similar concerns about the fees they are paying, versus the services they are receiving and the return on their investment. More importantly they are concerned on what they are getting in terms of quality and performance improvement for the system and for the benefit of the residents of Solano County with the fees they are paying.</p> | | |
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Ms. Rozen further stated that the EMS Administrator's report contained a comment about the increase is to reflect the current economic reality and parity with neighboring counties in recouping staff costs. They would like to see more information in each of those areas, and see what it actually means. Additionally, Mr. Rozen stated that other counties that have dealt with designation fees have asked their auditor-controller to do an analysis, which might be beneficial in this case. Further, an independent analysis could look at who are the neighboring counties we are comparing ourselves to, what are the fees they are paying, what are those fees going toward, what services are they providing, what services we are providing in this county, and what will that look like. Reiterating that comparable fees should be getting comparable services. Ms. Rozen also stated that they would like the hospitals to be consulted in this process, adding that they were not aware of the fee increases until the meeting packet was released. As the hospitals are the ones providing in partnership around the service, this should be done in a consultative manner as well.

Board Member Djavaheerian restated it appears the hospitals are okay with the fee increases proposed by the EMS Agency that seem reasonable considering the increase in cost of living expenses, rate parity with other counties etc. the hospitals are requesting more services and detailed reporting.

Ms. Rozen explained that they have not seen a chart comparing the current fees to what they would be with the 20% increase, and it would be another piece of information the Board should have before deciding. Further, while NorthBay has stated that they support the fee increase, they, as a hospital group have not yet discussed this matter. This would all be dependent on what they learn from all the information gathering that must be done.

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| <p>11. <u>Board Comments:</u></p> <p>a. Chairperson</p> <p>b. Directors</p> | <p>a. Board Chair Corsello had no comments.</p> <p>b. Board Member Jansen congratulated Mr. Pierson on his recognition at the state level for his work in EMS, and recognized the Vacaville City Firefighters Charity Fund for purchasing an additional eight Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) for their AED Program at the Vacaville Unified School District (VUSD), as well as additional supplies.</p> <p>Board Member Folsom announced that the City of Suisun has been working to increase personnel at their Fire Department, and thanked Fire Chief Vincent, NorthBay, and Medic Ambulance for their support and donations.</p> <p>Board Member Djavaherian added that these AED programs do make a difference, as he recently witnessed in the City of Berkeley a patient resuscitated by an AED after suffering a heart attack.</p> | | |
| <p>12. <u>Adjournment</u></p> | <p>Meeting adjourned to the next regularly scheduled Meeting on April 9, 2020.</p> | <p>(None)</p> | |