MEMBERS PRESENT
John Tysell     District I
Jim Beaver     District I, Alternate
Dave Gaynor     District III, Alternate
Guy Scheulke     District IV
Donna McClone     District V
Rod Talavera     District V, Alternate
Paul Freitas     ACCMA
Brent Finster     Communications Center Managers
Leslie Mueller     Ambulance Providers (Contra Costa Contract)
Joseph Barger     Contra Costa Health Services
Susan Garske     EMS Training Institution
William M. Thomas     Public Provider Field Paramedic
Art Lathrop     EMS
Ellen Leng     Emergency Department Physicians

GUESTS
Barry Sutherland     Westmed Ambulance
Chuck Dovey     Westmed Ambulance
Brad White     AMR
Carin Johnson     Falcon Critical Care
Alice Cassidy     Red Cross
Nancy Daniel     Moraga-Orinda Fire
Michael Marchiano     Contra Costa Sheriffs’ Office-OES

STAFF PRESENT
Art Lathrop     EMS Director
Joseph Barger     EMS Medical Director
Ruth Burke     Q I Coordinator
Barbara Center     RDMHS Specialist
Bruce Kenagy     Prehospital Care Coordinator
Pam Hall     Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT
District II     American Heart Association
American Red Cross     California Highway Patrol
Contra Costa Fire Chiefs’ Association     Contra Costa Police Chiefs’ Association
Emergency Nurses’ Association     Hospital Council – Easy Bay
Public Managers’ Association     Trauma Center
I. Introduction of Members and Guests
Chair, John Tysell called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. Meeting attendees made self-introductions. David Gaynor, District III Alternate, inquired if Patricia Barron, District III Representative, had resigned from her seat on the committee as she has not been in attendance for several meetings and she had spoken about the possibility of resigning. EMS staff will confirm Patricia’s status.

II. Approval of Minutes
M/S/C (Schuelke/Mueller) to approve the September 2003 regular meeting minutes and the October 15, 2003 Special Meeting minutes with an amendment to the October 15 minutes as requested by Art Lathrop. Item #4, 3rd paragraph, line 6, sentence ‘Higher costs are actually already being spent by Contra Costa Fire and Kensington with no subsidy.’ will be corrected to read: Higher costs are actually already being spent by Contra Costa Fire and El Cerrito/Kensington Fire with only partial subsidy.

III. Comments from the Public
None.

IV. Chairperson’s Report
Chair thanked everyone who attended the October special meetings. There has been a great deal of misunderstanding around the issues covered in these meetings. Presentation to the Board is now expected to be mid to late January. The final document which will be presented to the Board of Supervisors will also be sent to committee members.

The EMCC Public Information & Education subcommittee has been inactive for sometime. The Chair would like to reconstruct this committee and make Public Access Defibrillation their immediate work project.

V. Member Reports
Guy Schuelke, District IV Representative, commended Chair, Dr. Tysell and EMS staff for the excellent job in handling the October special meetings.

VI. Statewide Disaster Exercise Report
Art Lathrop went over the disaster exercise as Dan and Erika were at another meeting. This annual exercise was November 13 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. The scenario involved a terrorist release of a bio-hazardous substance into the air
filtration system at a free concert. The number of participating agencies continues to expand every year. This marked the first year of participation of Public Health and CCTV and it was the first year plans for use of the Strategic National Supply were included.

VII. West Contra Costa County Hospital District

Jim Beaver, District I Alternate, and, West Contra Costa Hospital District Board member, gave an informational presentation regarding the seriousness of the status of Brookside Hospital. When Tenet Systems took over operation of Doctors Hospital in Pinole and Brookside Hospital in San Pablo, the West Contra Costa Hospital District was very pleased. They now fear that Tenet may pull out as Brookside is on the verge of failing due to lack of income. They have hopes that Tenet will continue as all other options are very risky. There are only two emergency rooms in West County, if Doctors’ San Pablo closes, there would be only one. Tenet also operates San Ramon Medical Center which is profitable, however, if they pull out of San Pablo the feeling is that they would pull out of the entire area.

In discussion, committee members wondered if the nurses’ strike was, in large part, responsible for this failure. This is not the only issue, but, it is felt that the strike certainly made a very negative contribution. Bad debt as well as other issues have contributed, currently, the hospital is doing a complete analysis. Several committee members also felt that Tenet would pull out within 6-9 months as they will not continue to loose money. Current losses look like 23-24 million. If Tenet stays, some service closures/cutbacks would be expected, but the district would expect the E.R. to remain in operation. The District would have some time to accomplish a changeover, as a 190-day notice is required to be given.

The District might take over operation again but cash reserves would not permit this for any real period without additional financial backing. The District has been working on an alternate plan and checking with others in the field regarding other partnerships and other possibilities. Tenet administration and CFO are acting as though Tenet will remain and are working on a budget. Another real problem is the earthquake retrofit requirement that will have to be dealt with in the future, the 2008 date might be moved to 2013 and then in 2030 there will be additional requirements. At one time, a potential property buyer wanted to tear down the hospital and put in retail units.

Art Lathrop confirmed that Doctors’ San Pablo is a critical component for the EMS system. Jim Beaver stated that Tenet needs to hear this – really soon. The committee wondered if it would be appropriate to make a motion requesting immediate County Health Department, as well as State involvement.
M/S/C (Freitas/Leng) to go on record as greatly concerned by the current situation since it would be extremely damaging to the Emergency Medical Care System in Contra Costa County for Doctors’ Hospital Emergency Room to shut down and they request Jim Beaver to return to the next EMCC meeting with an update.

VIII. Vial of Life Program
Leslie Mueller gave a presentation on current revisions developed for this program. John Muir Medical Center, Mt. Diablo Medical Center and American Medical Response worked together in developing this new approach to placement of medical information and instructions for ease and speed in responders locating this information. The patient’s information will now be inserted in a plastic CD case with a magnetic back and then placed on the front of the refrigerator. Information has been submitted to Rossmoor regarding this program. Plans are being developed to contact additional facilities, agencies, and other counties.

IX. EMCC Annual Report to Board of Supervisors
This report was mailed with the EMCC meeting agenda and previous meeting minutes. Art Lathrop asked for a motion to approve this report to the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors. M/S/C (Thomas/Garske)

X. EMS Director’s Report
A. It is time to continue the EMS System Plan update. Copies of this document and requirements are available.
B. Jim Fajardo is very ill. He had a tumor removed from a kidney and has been in and out of the ICU.
C. The current plan regarding the Fitch Report is to take this to the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors in mid to late January; the document that will be presented will also go the EMCC and union representatives.
D. The State EMS Regulatory Committee that Joe Barger has been working with has proposed regulatory changes regarding EMT certification, Paramedic licensing, Emergency Medical Dispatch Guidelines, and Quality Assurance requirements.
E. Funding through the Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will be $600,000. The application must be submitted by January 30th. This may be an ongoing yearly award.
F. Flu season reports indicate that we are about to have a bad flu season.
G. Doctors’ offices and clinics will be closed for long holiday weekends again this year. This will, potentially, have a dramatically severe effect on hospital emergency room overcrowding.

XI. Medical Director’s Report
A. AMR data is improving and becoming more usable.
B. Head injury protocol changes will necessitate special training forprehospital care personnel.
C. Cardiac arrest protocol is being changed back to starting CPR first, instead of defibrillation first.

D. Statewide meeting yesterday of Emergency Medical Directors’ Association of California (EMDAC) – to provide definitive heart attack patient care: must have EKG -- San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District is using 12-lead equipment, starting evaluation of M.I.s. Documentation shows that patients do better when transported to a facility that performs angioplasty and/or stent placement.

XII. Medical Advisory Committee Report
For the upcoming year, this committee plans to work on Quality Assurance.

XIII. Facilities/Critical Care Committee Report
No report made as no meeting of this committee has taken place since the last EMCC meeting.

Addition to meeting:
Barbara Center requested a few minutes to give a brief background and description of Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT), as well as an opportunity to make a recruiting plea for new members or recommendations of prospective members. These teams, made up of doctors, nurses, paramedics and others, have been loosely organized but will now have much more stringent requirements as they will be under the auspices of Homeland Security. There, probably, will be fewer teams but they will be more highly qualified. The local DMAT CA-6 needs to recruit 35 additional people, three must be physicians and one of these must be an emergency room or trauma doctor. Participating in specialized training and signing up for on-call duty are just two of the member requirements. The CA-6 DMAT, formed under the auspices of Contra Costa EMS, has participated in domestic and foreign disaster responses and drills as well as participating in wild-land fire response and drills. Informational recruitment folders were available.

XIV Agenda Items – for the Next Meeting – March 10, 2004
1) Update on the west county hospital situation from Jim Beaver
2) Bruce Kenagy will give an update on EMT Regulation revisions/EMT Process
3) 5150 writing capability

XV. Adjournment
M/S/C (Schuelke/Gaynor) to adjourn at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Hall
EMCC Secretary