Chair Hansen called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

I. Introduction of Members and Guests
Chair Freitas welcomed everyone and asked for self-introductions.

II. Approval of September 8, 2010 Minutes
M/S/C (Lathrop/Tobias) to approve minutes of the September 8, 2010 meeting.

III. Comments from the Public
None.

IV. Chair’s Report
None.

V. Members’ Reports
Member Mueller took to the opportunity to share that AMR, in partnership with the community, has placed 75 automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to date this year. The Contra Costa College District has received 22 AEDs. The AEDs are distributed between the three campuses, and placed strategically so that an AED can be accessed from any location on campus within two minutes. Additionally, all six
high schools within the Mt. Diablo Unified School District have received AEDs (a total of 22). She was also pleased to report that AMR has also trained 600 residents throughout the year in cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR). She commended all the Contra Costa County EMS system participants and various programs, such as STEMI, which help our system to continue progressing.

**Member Juster** shared that the John Muir Medical Center, Concord celebrated the opening of The Hofmann Family Patient Care Tower on November 16, 2010. The facility includes a new Cardiovascular Institute, a new emergency department (triple the size of the old emergency department), and currently has 61 out of a planned 120 private rooms open.

**Chair Hansen** commended John Muir Medical Center, Concord for receiving Magnet Recognition, by the American Nurses Credentialing Center in September 2010. This is the highest honor for nursing excellence and recognizes the nursing service at John Muir Concord as one of the best in the nation.

**VI. EMCC Annual Report – Review/Approve for Submission to the Board of Supervisors**

M/S/C (Speakman/Tobias) to approve 2010 Annual Report for submission to the Board of Supervisors.

**VII. Presentation of Certificates of Recognition for Supporting Contra Costa Medical Surge and Disaster Preparedness for Infants and Children:** Pam Pshea, RN, SRRMC; Jeannie McNair, RN, JMMC-WC; Suzy Fitzgerald, MD, Kaiser-WC; Desmond Carson, MD, DSP; Vicki Starr, PNP, SRRMC; Kristina Spurgeon, Kaiser Regional; Theo Koury, MD, CEP

**Member Lathrop** prefaced the presentations by stating that there has been a decrease in pediatric beds statewide, and as children are a significant part of the community, disaster preparedness for children should be an important part of EMS systems. He commended **Staff Frost** for all she has done to place Contra Costa County as a leader in the state around EMS for children issues.

**VIII. Health Care Reform and EMS**

**Ron Wetter,** Government Relations Manager for Kaiser Permanente, presented an overview of the health care reform bill and the dramatic effect it will have on our health care system, specifically as it relates to EMS. He made the following points:

- EMS is mentioned only four times in the bill, yet accounts for three percent of all medical care.
- The number of people who go to emergency departments will be reduced, and there will be more compensation (thought probably below actual cost of service) for those who do go.
- An aggressive approach needs to be taken in moving toward electronic health records (EHRs). An important part of the legislation addresses funding for EHRs, but it will require a significant investment. One particular challenge is that patients could be going to multiple facilities.
- As health care reform moves toward patient/medical outcomes, a new level of measurements will need to be developed, with a goal of people getting better.

Mr. Wetter summed up his presentation by stating that the goal should be to do things right the first time, as there won’t be money available to re-do it. **Chair Hansen** thanked Mr. Wetter for a very insightful presentation that touched on many of the concerns of hospital systems. **Donald Waters** stated that the connectivity network for electronic health records, and the cost, will be a huge challenge.

**IX. November County-wide Disaster Exercise**

**Staff Guerra** reported on the state-wide improvised explosive devices exercise that took place on November 18th. Participants in Contra Costa County (CCC) included all CCC Health Services Divisions, community clinics, all nine hospitals, many skilled nursing facilities, and Hospice of the East Bay.

Strong areas included coordination and communication, and feedback regarding the Multi-Casualty Incident (MCI) Plan was positive. Reddinet, the computerized emergency communications network used by 17 counties in California, failed due to a software issue very early in the exercise. This did, however, provide an opportunity to test the back-up system. Once the problem is resolved, Reddinet will bring in an outside audit firm to test the system. The final After Action Report, being prepared by Global Vision Consortium, will be available soon.
X. **CHP Data on 9-1-1 Wait Times and Call Volume**

Capt. Dennis Story of the CHP Golden Gate Division Communication Center (GGCC), updated the Committee on emergency dispatch for the nine Bay Area Counties. GGCC leads the state in 9-1-1 call answering time, and is striving to answer 90% of calls within 10 seconds. Progress in technology now allows for more accurate pin-pointing of call location and ability to re-route calls to the proper agency. A new computer aided dispatch (CAD) system will be operational within a few months. Capt. Story stated that having Contra Costa County Sheriff Dispatch answer calls made within Contra Costa County would provide better service to our citizens. There was general discussion about how a change in dispatch protocol, for example having dispatch answer the call by asking “where is your emergency?” rather than “what is your emergency?” could positively impact outcome.

XI. **EMS Director’s Report**

Member Lathrop reported the following:
- The EMT 2010 project, which entails transmitting EMT-1 data to the state for the formation of a statewide data base, is going well, but is very staff intensive.
- **Member Lathrop** will be retiring at the end of March. Pat Frost, Assistant EMS Director, will serve as interim director until the position is filled. EMS staff member Barbara Center, Regional Disaster Medical/Health Specialist for the Northern California Coastal Region, is retiring in February. Dr. William Walker, who serves in an unpaid position, will then be giving up his role as Region II Regional Disaster Medical/Health Coordinator. Contra Costa County will recommend to the state that Santa Clara County take over as RDMH as they are well versed in disaster response and well staffed. EMS staff member Dan Guerra, Contra Costa Health Services Disaster Preparedness Manager will be retiring in June.

XII. **EMS Medical Director’s Report**

Staff Frost, on behalf of Dr. Joe Barger, updated the Committee on the following:
- New Emergency Cardiovascular Care guidelines for adult resuscitation will go into effect as of January 2011. There are other small changes relating to terms of medications and treatments priorities.
- Use of Zofran for severe nausea and vomiting will be implemented as of January 1, 2011.
- Creation of the Contra Costa stroke system remains on target for startup by January 2012. Training on stroke symptoms will be part of the 4th quarter training module for the Contra Costa Fire/EMS Training Consortium.
- The Contra Costa Bariatric Task Team is looking at options to provide bariatric with safe, dignified and comfortable transport.
- **Dr. Freitas**, John Muir Medical Center – Walnut Creek, continues work on the head trauma triage study.
- The STEMI System has begun a pilot study for EKG transmissions from ambulance to hospital, with a goal to continue to reduce false-positive activations. John Muir Medical Center – Concord is currently participating and the program will soon expand to include Doctors Medical Center.
- The project to decrease unnecessary fire department response to the John Muir Urgent Care clinic in Brentwood appears to have been successful. At some point it may be expanded to include other facilities.

XIII. **Agenda Items for Next Meeting – March 9, 2011**

- Farewell presentation for **Art Lathrop**.
- Member Swartzell – recent trip to Cuba regarding the Cuban model of delivery of medical services.

XIV. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

EMCC Secretary