



FUTURE VISION MEETING MINUTES March 31, 2008

In Attendance:

Antognazzi, Sharon	CVEMSA	Piner, Jeremy	Piners
Ashby, Sean	SHFD	Potter, Steve	NPD
Campbell, Steve	Calistoga Fire	Randolph, Mike	NFD
Conley, Mike	NSHFD	Shubin, Karen	Cal Fire
Cook, Ty	CVEMSA	Slipiec, Stewart	Piner's Ambulance
Courtemanche, Jennie	QVMC	Stuart, Steve	Napa Fire Dept.
Garcia, Matthew	Pacific Union College	Twohey, Kevin	SHFD
Ojeda, Noel	Angwin Community Ambulance	Ulloth, Gus	City of Napa
Pena, Maria	St Helena Hospital	Weeks, Glen E.	Am Cyn Fire Prot. Dist.

Ty Cook started the meeting with introductions around the room. Ty stated that at our last meeting the group agreed to review the EMS System by going through the California Standard EMS System Components which include:

- Communications
- Staffing and Training
- System Organization and Management
- Response and Transportation
- Facilities and Critical Care Centers
- Data Collection and System Evaluation
- Public Information and Education
- Disaster Medical Response

Ty gave some background stating that Piner's Ambulance is currently the holder of the EOA-I and EOA-II areas of operation and had received the final extension which started March 1, 2008 and ends on February 28, 2011. Ty then stated that starting in October 2008, we'll be looking towards an RFP consultant to come onboard and to put together our ambulance ordinance. This ordinance will require all ambulances operating within Napa County to be permitted. The permit process will include ambulance inspections for equipment requirements of Coastal Valleys EMS Region. Then the consultant will work on the RFP process. In order to maintain strict integrity of the RFP process, the EMS Agency's ability to participate in any system improvements ends in approximately eighteen months (starting from January 2008). Ty concluded his review by stating that the purpose of these meetings are to identify system issues and develop strategies to mitigate them. We will address the problems the group can mitigate and identify issues that may be addressed through the RFP process.

Ty stated that at the last meeting we started looking at Communications. While reviewing the dispatch centers and their roles, Ty found we forgot to include wireless 911 calls that are currently handled by CHP.

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Napa, CA 94559
707-253-4341 Office
707-259-8112 FAX

Sonoma County Office
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Santa Rosa, CA 95403
707-565-6501 Office
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The following dispatch centers were identified:

- Calistoga: CPD
- St Helena: SHPD
- CHP: Wireless 9-1-1
- Piner's: Secondary EMS
- P.U.C.: Angwin Ambulance
- Napa Central: PSAP, EMD, DPD, NCSO, ACPD, NFD, EMS
- E.C.C.: Cal Fire / NCFD, CFD, SHFD, ACFD, EMS Aircraft

At this time a possible change with CHP Wireless 911 calls was noted. This change would send most wireless calls directly to the county's 911 systems, leaving just a border along highways where calls would remain with CHP wireless.

Matthew Garcia added that Pacific Union College along with dispatching Angwin Ambulance also dispatches their own security team. Mike Conley added that Napa State Hospital dispatches their own police, fire and ambulance for incidents on their campus. Also mentioned was Napa Valley Junior College Campus Police, but it was determined that the group would address 9-1-1 dispatch centers.

It was noted that the current dispatch system has delays due to call transfers and multiple isolated communication processes required to notify responding agencies. Jeremy Piner stated that since the last meeting, Steve and Gus have been working with Piners and are cutting dispatch times.

Ty stated since our last meeting there have been several discussions to try and discover how we have reached the current state. What is required is to have our needs addressed and funds allocated to support the future of a Public Safety Communications System.

The components of Communications have been identified as:

- Technical Infrastructure
- Dispatch
- Operations

Eric Parks stated that the technical infrastructure includes two EMS repeaters one on Atlas Peak and one on Mt. St. Helena. The Atlas repeater generally covers the lower portion of the county while the St Helena repeater generally covers the top end of the county, yet there are areas within these areas that are not covered due to terrain. Noel Ojeda noted that the MedNet channel is shared by other counties and often times when ambulance units try to transmit to Napa 11 they are unable and must communicate with Cal Fire as an intermediary..

Eric stated not every mountain top has all frequencies and there has not been a lot of attention paid to the MedNet. It's just being maintained.

Eric stated that for law enforcement he currently is working on a Simulcast system that is using both repeaters Atlas Peak and Mt St Helena at the same time. Through Homeland Security grants the County has replaced the backbone of the radio system and he is now waiting for a digital microwave system and complementing the poor coverage areas with a voting system.

Kevin Twohey asked what it would take since we can't simulcast right now through MedNet. Eric stated he would have to check into licensing since MedNet is shared by multiple counties. What would help the MedNet channel now is to simulcast with Atlas Peak, St Helena and Lake Berryessa repeaters and use Oat Hill, Monticello, B-tank and Sugarloaf as Voting receivers. We'll never ever have coverage everywhere. We can only strive to have the best our equipment and license will allow.

Eric stated a quick update of the radio systems goes like this: An upgrade of the whole radio system started with replacement of all digital and microwaves. This was accomplished mostly with Homeland security grant money. Next is the up grading of the whole Voting system for the police channels. This now allows us two sites of Simulcast, St Helena and Atlas Peak. Purposed in the current 2008-2009 budget (if we get the money) would include a microwave link from Lake Berryessa to Mt St Helena which is what is lacking to have the enhanced capabilities.

Ty suggested that we stop looking at the communications challenge from the individual discipline perspective and instead we need to approach this as a Public Safety issue and try to combine resources to develop a regional dispatch center. The idea is to create a one-stop shop when anyone calls 9-1-1. Currently Napa Central is the County PSAP and the center where all EMD processing occurs for the entire county occurs.

Some of the challenges of this concept are first and foremost a paradigm shift. Other concerns were raised by Piner's such as the necessity of the processing of their transfers and other pre-arranged transports because they are a primary revenue source.

Kevin asked if we are married to VHF forever. Eric answered, as long as Cal Fire remains VHF, Napa County will remain VHF. Currently there are little to no VHF channels available. Narrow banding will open the opportunity for more channels. Unfortunately this won't be ready until 2012. Also, for every two channels changed to narrow band a third channel becomes available. Narrow banding will also reduce coverage and we'll have to plan for additional coverage.

Eric stated that Mobile Data Terminals (MDT's) work on 800 megahertz and we are in direct control of the MDT's but they are slow. It's best if the MDT is paired with a Verizon High Speed Wireless card (but we don't have any control over Verizon) and keeping the 800 megahertz as back-up.

Ty suggested at this point breaking into sub-committees one for operations and one for the technical side of communications. After some discussion the following were agreed upon:

<u>OPS:</u>	Mike Randolph	<u>TECH:</u>	Eric Parks
	Karen Shubin		Gus Ulloth
	Steve Potter		Karen Shubin
	Noel Ojeda		

After additional discussion regarding the remainder of components, a decision was made to have Ty do an overview of the other components of the Napa County EMS system to explain the current status. At the next meeting, the group will review these components in hopes to eliminate those not needing any further discussion and/or set other sub-committees to work.

The next meeting will be on Monday, May 5, 2008 at 10 a.m. at H & HS Building K Conference Room.