

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**Tuesday November 19, 2019**

**Members present:** Chair, Scott Visyak, CAL FIRE; Chris Lowder, EMS Specialist, Riverside County Fire; James Brakebill, COD EMT Program; Stan Hall, PLN, DRMC; Veronica Hernandez, PLN, EMC; Neil Lingle, Director, COD PSA; Cameron Miller, Clinical Coordinator, COD EMT Program; Misty Plumley, REMS; Wayne Ennis, AMR; Evelin Millsap, PLN, JFK; Scott Ventura, COD Fire Technology Program and Chantae Wilson, COD EMT Program Director

**Members absent:** Erik Hauser, Cathedral City Fire Department; Steve Casarez, Palm Springs Fire Department; Andrea Hills, Desert Health Care District

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Visyak called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm. He welcomed all in attendance and introductions were made. After short review of Minutes, motion to approve.

**MOTION by Chair Visyak: Approve Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2019.**

**SECOND: Mr. Miller**

**Carried unanimously, no abstentions.**

1. **PSA Update – Neil Lingle**
2. **Program Update**

* Director Neil Lingle Discussed Current Happenings in the Public Safety Academy as a whole, including the following notable items:
  + Mod 3 Class sizes are continuing to grow, up to 70 students currently
  + Riverside County Sheriff’s office working with the College to offer Corrections courses hosted on COD campus, leading to better relationship between the college and the Sheriff.
  + College is close to opening a Mod 1 Law Enforcement academy, which is a considerable undertaking and will be a great accomplishment for the College and local students interested in a law enforcement career.
  + Scott Ventura is working to review the College’s Fire Academy for re-accreditation over the next year. Recently an official from the Office of the State Fire Marshall visited the campus to help answer questions and begin the process of re-accreditation for the fire academy.
  + PSA continues to be valued by the college as demonstrated by the most recent faculty needs determination resulting in police and fire both ranking in top 5 for additional full time faculty positions.
  + New Full time position currently being flown on the law enforcement side for a position that will help to coordinate all the academies. Additional full time positions being worked on for EMT and Fire programs.

1. **EMT Program update – Chantae Wilson**

* Ambulance simulator purchased and installed in PSA 18 for use in EMT classes. This simulator mimics the patient compartment of an ambulance so that students can have more immersive simulations and learning experiences
* 15 safety vests have been purchased and are in use by students on ride outs in the field. Approval has been obtained for 30 helmets with goggles for additional safety in the field. Scott Visyak asked that the helmets include visible markings identifying the wearer as a student to reduce on scene confusion.
* EMS 81 – Ambulance operator course had been popular with students. Will be moving to the Mecca/Thermal campus next fall once the campus is ready. Move is due to more room for ambulance driving. Morongo Basin Ambulance has committed to donating used ambulance to the College for this purpose.
* 6 week EMR course coupled with 10 week EMT course remains popular with the students as they are able to complete their training in one semester. Instructors for skills in the classes remain the same, which is beneficial to the students.
* Equipment need lists have been updated to include additional Sager Traction Splints, additional training manikins, and an additional mid-fidelity manikin.
* Discussed need for a trauma manikin, Chris Lowder of Riverside County Fire EMS gave some information on recent manikins they purchased and were pleased with so far – made by a company called North American Rescue with the device called “Tomm Manikin”. Mr. Lowder also shared that they were happy with new simulated blood that they were using in conjunction with the manikin made by “Reel Creations”
* Additional EMT Class offering scheduled for the Spring – a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday class that would run for the full semester. Believed that additional students may be able to attend with evening classes.
* Skill Verification Training – Currently only one instructor can sign off recert skills (James Brakebill). The reason for this is lack of approval from the county EMS agency. Training programs have not been available for our instructors to attend to increase the number of certified skills evaluators. Misty Plumley agreed to work with Chantae to increase the number of instructors.
* NREMT first attempt pass rates shared and discussed, noted that some students aren’t taking the test as they take EMT for units or additional points on nursing application, not to get a job as an EMT. Misty said that this was a common problem at other schools as well, suggested speaking with nursing and defining the additional points can only be obtained with EMT card, not just having taken the class.
* Changes to curriculum are being worked on, including changes in course names to reduce confusion.
* PSFA curriculum is in committee now, other programs including Kinesiology are interested in their students taking the course. Misty asked that the curriculum be sent to her as well so that the county can approve the course.
* EMS Work Experience being developed which would offer up to 8 units for those currently working in the field.
* Paramedic Academy curriculum is currently in committee as well. The academy will be 53 units in total. Misty advised that current paramedic requirements are in review and may change by the time our curriculum gets through committee. She will advise of any changes once they are finalized.

1. **Clinical Coordinator Report – Cameron Miller**

* Mr. Miller and Ms. Wilson attended Critical Incident Stress Management training in San Francisco and Designated Infection Control Officer training in Idaho as discussed at prior advisory committee meetings. The course was over three days and provided some information that was pertinent to their roles at the college but was clearly designed for and of better use for those working in the field. They will apply some of the knowledge they received to ensure the safety and well being of our students in the field.
* CastleBranch contract started and has had many problems with the tracker. Many student complaints have led to delays and difficulty approving students for field time. Currently the plan is to have Mr. Miller collect necessary medical documents and forms for clinical time as before and use CastleBranch just for background checks and drug screening.
* Getting students in to hospitals remains a challenge as the requirements of the hospitals are extensive and require the submission of copious amounts of paperwork. Mr. Miller has been working to streamline this process and had been hoping that Castle Branch would make it less time consuming, but with the difficulties experienced with their program has resulted in additional delays.
* Students participated in large scale active shooter drill that was put on by Riverside County Fire with many local agencies participating, including Riverside County Sheriff, Mercy Air, AMR, Cathedral City Fire, Eisenhower Medical Center, Desert Regional Medical Center, JFK Hospital, and several others. Provided contextual learning experience for students to see how these events could unfold.
* Students visited The McCarthy Child Development and Training Center on the COD Palm Desert campus to interact with children and experience firsthand some of the challenges in assessing pediatric patients. It was a positive experience for everyone involved and there are plans to continue the visits in the future.

D. **Member Discussion Items**

* Scott Visyak notified the group that he would be resigning from the board effective that day. He thanked the group for the positive experience over the last several years. He was thanked for his service wished good luck in future endeavors. Mr. Visyak then motioned to vote Chris Lowder on to the committee to replace himself, and to have Deputy Wayne Ennis serve as Chair until position filled.

**MOTION by Chair Visyak: Open nominations for inclusion of new members into COD EMS advisory committee, and to have Wayne Ennis, AMR, serve as chair until position is filled.**

**SECOND: Wayne Ennis**

**Carried unanimously, no abstentions.**

**NOMINATIONS: Misty Plumley nominates Chris Lowder, Riverside County Fire EMS**

**APPROVAL: Mr. Lowder voted on to committee unanimously**

* Jim Brakebill mentioned that EMT students from COD continue to impress him and do well in their positions at Morongo Valley Fire.
* Evelin Millsap of JFK hospital said that now that some students had rotated through and the hospital knew what to expect, it was likely possible to expand the number of students in the future.
* Member discussion about moving meeting to another date in Spring to make attendance easier for members and not conflict with festival season. Proposed a late March meeting instead of April. Chante Wilson will reach out and determine date after receiving input from members closer to that time.

**Next meeting date TBD at PSA. Lunch will be provided.**

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cameron Miller