Rusty Hotchkiss called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.
I. MINUTES

The Minutes of the November meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Base Hospital Committee

Lieslle Sprague reported on the December Base Hospital Committee meeting. The Committee discussed ESO.

A recent MCI involving multiple shooting victims in Fresno was reviewed. The MCI ran smoothly, and Dispatch, EMS and Fire did a very good job.

AH–Hanford was certified by Joint Commission as a Stroke Center.

SVDH plans to apply as a Stemi Center in the future.

The Tule River Reservation has a Lucas Automatic Chest Compression Device, which works very well.

VCH has been receiving patients with lung injuries from vaping, and they feel it will get worse when the vaping is combined with viruses.

RMC’s January Tape Review is full, and there is a waiting list.

There was a hazmat incident in the Clovis Emergency Department recently. A patient drank pesticide and then vomited in the E.D. The staff complained of symptoms. A Code Orange was activated, and the patient and staff were put through decon.

B. Medical Control Committee

Dan Lynch reported that the next legislative period will begin at the end of January. He discussed the impact of SB 438, which was approved last year. The requirements for Dispatch Centers should not affect us since the EMS Communications Center is operated by the County, and Tulare Fire is dispatched through TCCAD. The section of the Bill that could impact us is fire agencies upgrading to ALS. CCEMSA would have to allow this, but the agencies would follow our policies.

Debbie Becker retired in December. Mato is handling most of Debbie’s responsibilities, as well as Training. Contact Mato with QI issues. If he is not available, Dale can assist you.

Dan Smiley retired from the EMS Authority on December 31. Dan was the Deputy Director for EMSA for over 30 years, and worked at the EMS Agency prior to that.
The Kings County RFP is currently being reviewed by the State, and it will then be released. Services begin on November 1, 2020.

EMS is working on renewing the Dispatch agreements that are expiring.

The EMS Agency continues to work on the new EMS Communications Center.

There was discussion regarding two different incidents where a 5150 patient was not restrained and tried to jump out of the back of the ambulance. In one of the cases, the paramedic called the Base Hospital for Versed, but the request was refused. The EMS Agency released a draft policy for the transport of 5150 patients, which included restraints, but the policy is now dead. There was no agreement from the system or the Behavioral Health Departments, so it was never finalized. The hospital and the paramedic on scene need to make the decision on restraining the patient, especially if the paramedic is uncomfortable with the transport. Sean Roberts asked if there had been any discussion about making Versed a standing order. He noted it is difficult to contact the Base Hospital while dealing with these patients. Dan stated that this was a good suggestion, and EMS will discuss it. Cindy Schueler suggested that another route besides IV also be considered.

C. CQI Committee

Mato Parker reported that the CQI Committee will be sending a letter to the SNFs informing them that paramedics only need three items to transfer a patient to the hospital: Chief Complaint, POLST Form, PMH/Medications/Allergies. The Committee feels that this will help reduce scene times.

The Committee has been monitoring Bilateral Needle Thoracostomies. There have been cases where a BNT was not performed on a trauma code. C.E. has been conducted, and the number of cases has decreased.

There continues to be issues with paramedics not giving medications before placing a patient on CPAP. The CQI Committee will continue to monitor this, and PLOs will be asked to review the cases with the paramedics involved.

CQI Committee members will be sending suggestions to Mato Parker on items they would like to focus on in 2020.

Dan and Mato will be discussing updating the CQI System, including the possibility of making it electronic.

D. Disaster Committee

Curtis Jack reported that another hospital evacuation exercise will be held this year, most likely at KDMC. There may be some provider involvement, but patients will not be transported. Dialysis and ancillary facilities will be included.
A Statewide Medical Health MOU is being developed for all counties will sign. A pay scale was developed for Ambulance Strike Teams, but this does not address who pays for other resources sent to disasters.

An Ambulance Strike Team Leader Course will be held at the Halls Ambulance Training Center on January 23. Contact Curtis Jack if interested.

Curtis asked the providers to concentrate on developing action plans for standbys and events, and to integrate the facility if possible. Contact Curtis for assistance.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Electronic Submission of PCRs

Dan gave a report on the Health Data Exchange (HDE) for the submission of electronic PCRs into the hospital records system. All of the ambulance providers except Pistoressi are on board. ESO will be contacting the providers to develop contracts and work on logistics. Hospitals not participating are Madera, V.A., Kaiser and Community Medical Centers (RMC and Clovis). CMC feels the HIE will do the same thing, but Dan does not agree. SVDH was not going to participate, but they have new leadership and are now considering it. SAMC is still trying to work it out since they are working on their move to EPIC. It was noted that the cost will be significantly less if ESO is included as part of the EPIC upgrade. Dan has grant money available to the hospitals and providers for the first year of the program; however, it must be used by June 30.

Dave Sanbongi reported that KDMC has been using the test server, and the system works well. They will be going live with the program on January 15. Dan stated that once the program is implemented, the hospitals will not only get the PCR into their system, but providers will be able to get patient outcome and billing information.

IV. FACILITY REPORTS

A. Sequoia Safety Council

Mark Watkins reported that Zach Spierling is now the Operations Manager for Sequoia Safety Council.

B. Cal-Fire

Will Goodman reported that Cal Fire will be going Statewide with electronic PCRs. They will be using Image Trend. Dan Lynch is interested in seeing if the ambulance and hospital will have access to the PCR to see what was happening at the beginning of the call.
C. **California Highway Patrol**

Rusty Hotchkiss reported that Andrea Brown has retired. There continues to be issues with the budget, so CHP will only respond to emergency calls. Ride Alongs are not occurring at this time. Scott Rodda also retired. They are down 2 pilots, but 1 will be replaced in February. They are also down 1 paramedic.

D. **Selma Fire Department**

Fabian Uresti reported that Selma has been contracting with American Ambulance for service, and they have done an exceptional job. The new chief has proposed a three-year plan to phase back into transport services. They are adding a 12-hour ALS ambulance to capture calls and to assist the 24-hour units with call volume. Selma will be hiring full-time and per diem paramedics and EMTs. They have ordered an ambulance and equipment and hope to start on March 1.

E. **SkyLife**

Shane Clark reported that SkyLife is switching back to the 407. They are also adding more staff. The addition of blood products to their protocols has been put on hold due to the blood shortages.

F. **Community Regional Medical Center**

Amy Campbell reported that UCSF will be having a Wilderness Medicine Conference at Bass Lake from April 20-22. The Annual Trauma Conference will be held on May 7 at the Veteran’s Memorial Building in Clovis.

The Parkmedic Class starts next Sunday. Students will be in the classroom for 4 weeks, and then in the field with American Ambulance.

G. **Valley Children’s Hospital**

Mary Jo Quintero reminded paramedics about high volume nasal cannulas on transfers. Transferring facilities need to be educated that they cannot change it to a regular nasal cannula for transport. SkyLife and the VCH Transfer Team are equipped to transfer these patients.

H. **Sierra View District Hospital**

Kris Chatterton reported that Sierra View will be hosting Tape Review on February 18.

I. **Adventist Health – Hanford**

Lieslle Sprague reported that AH-Hanford now has an extra clerk to register patients coming in by ambulance. This should help with wall times.
J. **Imperial Ambulance**

Sean Roberts reported on an active shooter drill in Porterville. It was chaotic but went well.

Sean also reported on an incident on 152. One of their ambulances was involved, but the crew was not injured.

K. **LifeStar Ambulance**

Smokey Beavers reported that the Farm Show will be held February 11-13.

L. **Central California EMS Agency**

Curtis Jack reminded the hospitals that they can let Dispatch know of delays at their facility, but they should not ask that paramedics choose another hospital. This is diversion and is not allowed.

Mato-Kuwapi Parker reported that 20 students will be starting their clinicals on January 27. The prior class is finishing up their field internships. A new Paramedic Class started yesterday with 22 students. A quarter of them are from out of our area. Dan noted that some students are completing the course in 11 months, which is very helpful to the provider agencies.

Dale Dotson thanked American Ambulance for holding today’s meetings at their facility. It has been difficult to find meeting space. This room may be the permanent location for the meetings, but this still needs to be discussed with American.

Dan Lynch reported that the Blood Bank contacted the Public Health Department regarding an extreme shortage of blood. They have never seen this level of shortage and are in dire need of donations. They are having to deny blood requests from the hospitals, and elective surgeries are being cancelled. Dan sent out a message to the system asking for donations. The Health Department is planning 3 blood drives. Steve Melander noted that American Ambulance is planning blood drives in Fresno and Kings.

V. **ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2020.