



Santa Rosa Junior College Public Safety Training Center

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EMC and Paramedic Advisory Committee Meeting

October 16, 2023

12:00pm @ PSTC

Members in Attendance:

Chris Ottolini	Coastal Life Support District
Josh Zaret	Santa Rosa Fire Department
Cathy Dooyes	Petaluma FD
Erin Olson	Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital/SRJC
Jennifer Banks	Coastal Valleys EMSA
Matt Windrem	Sonoma County Fire Protection District
Karri Pierson	Sonoma Fire Department
Molly Anderson	SRJC Paramedic Student Rep Academy 29
Melissa Leonelly	AMR proxy for Ambrose Stevens
Gina Mitchell	Sutter Hospital
Galen Butts	SRJC Graduate Representative
Maria Marino	Community Representative
Mark LaGrave	Medical Director/Kaiser Permanente

Members Absent:

Marylou Zinsmaster	Kaiser Permanente
Ken Bradford	LIFWest

Staff in Attendance:

Art Hsieh	Director, Paramedic Academy, SRJC
Scott Snyder	EMC Faculty, SRJC
Katie O'Connor	EMC Faculty, SRJC
Linda Anderson	EMC Associate Faculty, SRJC
Josh Adams	Dean, PSTC, SRJC
Georgia Pedgrift	EMC Admin Assistant, SRJC
Megan Rhodes	Job Developer, Workforce Development, SRJC

Quorum: YES

Called to order: Chris Ottolini called the meeting to order at 12:08 pm.

1. **Welcome and introduction**-Roll call. Introduction of attendees.
2. **Call to Order**- 12:08 by Chris Ottolini

3. **Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting** – Unanimous approval.
4. **Announcements** – Art wants to discuss upcoming Off the Vine and Career Fairs in Spring. Dr. LaGrave mentions AB 767 has been being discussed in EMS circles regarding Community Paramedics.
5. **Public/Industry Comment** – None
6. **Unfinished Committee Business**- None
7. **Deans Report**- Josh Adams is thankful for everyone’s attendance and support of the program. New SRJC President Dr. Angelica Garcia has visited PSTC and is incredibly supportive of our programs. Dual enrollment programs with high schools is one effort college is making to increase enrollment. EMC is holding EMC 100 at Windsor High and holding full class at Roseland campus. District enrollment is up 6% from last fall. We have lost over 5,000 students since covid. EMC Program went up 13.5% (faster than district average) over last semester. Paramedic Program had successful accreditation site visit with no significant issues. We do need to address instructor shortage for skills assessments.

New Business/Discussion

8. **AEMT (EMC 107A, 107AL, B)**: Local agency wants advanced EMT training for staff. We had courses that were on hold and have just been reapproved to be taught again. Sonoma County fire chiefs also want these classes. Fall 2024 is an anticipated start date but needs instructors. Might not be held on campus- could be taught by outside agencies and held off-site while college does administrative work. Jen Banks wants to know program length (12-17 weeks – 150 hours). Unknown how many weeks it will take because it depends on who hosts it. If we have it on campus it will be 17 weeks to match with semester length. Erin Olson wants to know how many clinical hours there are (80). Many details need to be worked out. Jen Banks wants to emphasize that this is still under discussion for approval. Only 3-4 programs throughout the state are offered, typically in rural areas. There might not be as much benefit for it in this area since current EMT programs already offer some advanced training. Research is being done to see if it added effort and workload is worth it. CVEMS will look at data but are not convinced it is needed. Discussion ensued. Class cannot be offered without approval from CVEMS. Are advanced skills required often enough to justify program? Is it better to support more people in becoming paramedics? Current EMTs can handle majority of calls, but lack training for cardiac emergencies. It could be a good training ground for future paramedics. Erin Olson says it will be very difficult to find preceptors because we already struggle with that with current classes. Matt Windrem explains that many fire agencies want increased training and it is already hard to recruit firefighter/paramedics. He wonders if increased skills can be added to EMT training. This could help smaller agencies who don’t have budget to recruit paramedics. How will people maintain additional skills if advanced calls are infrequent? Further discussion needed.
9. **Community Health Worker Collaborative with California Indian Museum & Cultural Center**: CHW is paraprofessional job in Health Sciences and CARESTAR grant was received to have workers on Native American reservations. This could help decrease response times on reservations. We have small number of Indigenous students at SRJC and want to find ways to support them. JC used to have CHW class and transferred it to EMC from Health Sciences. It will take a year to investigate requirements (instructors must have master's degree in Public Health to

teach it) but could be great to increase Indigenous involvement in EMS and increase trust and bridge cultures. We are receiving funding for this project and will explore curriculum needs, recruitment, instructors, etc. Class is heavy in public health topics. Dr. LaGrave sees wonderful opportunities.

Paramedic Academy

10. **Bachelor's Degree Program:** Katie O'Connor says community colleges can offer degrees if programs aren't offered by state school at community college costs. Could this be a fit for paramedics? Students like cost savings. It requires more paramedic classes and general education classes. Do regional stakeholders think it is beneficial? Will send survey to employers. Do employers care about associates versus bachelors degree? Should degree be tailored specifically to Paramedicine or EMS Management? Will it provide more career opportunities and ways to recruit instructors? Art requests people forward survey on to other stakeholders as well. Discussion ensued.

11. **COAEMSP Site Visit Update:** Dr. LaGrave thankful to everyone for support of the Paramedic Program. Art Hsieh said site visit team gave high accolades. This process started 2 years ago and was delayed due to pandemic. We had no violations and are only 1 of a handful of organizations with no violations throughout the country. The Advisory Committee is part of what makes our program successful. In-person interviews helped confirm what we submitted in our written self-study. Linda Anderson called out Art's work and leadership. We will receive a findings letter reporting back and we will have chance to respond if needed. Next year the findings will be submitted for accreditation. We need to address ongoing lab staffing issues. We do not pay professional experts well and they work many hours for their primary employers. This creates problems for Katie's ability to schedule labs. Current system is not working. We raised pay, but are still one of lowest paying colleges. Average pay is \$40/hour and we pay \$25/hour for professional experts. Maybe some people can become Associate Faculty which pays substantially more. That would cost college a lot more money. Can employers release employees for hours to work here? Local agencies could rotate weeks that they help provide on duty staffing. We could do hybrid model of increased faculty and on duty support. Employees would get paid and get CEUs. Matt Windrem explains agencies do not always have extra people on staff. They already staff by budget limitations. Maybe people on modified/light duty could help. It is a good way to assess future employees.

12. **Academy 29:** Getting ready to go to internships. We know there are logistical issues with preceptors. We need agencies to help absorb more students so they graduate on time. We want to keep them in our EMS system instead of out of the area, but we need to place them as soon as possible to increase their success. Chris Ottolini says students who have already gotten their contacts can get hours through Coast Life Support District. SoCo Fire doesn't know yet who is coming over from AMR to join them in new contract so they don't know how many preceptors they will have. Have 22 current students. Only lost 1 to academic failure. Others got jobs.

13. **Academy 30:** Testing is this week. 59 applicants and most have RSVP'ed. This is the most applicants ever. We need more people to help with testing. We will give them lunch and CEUs. There are 25 spots. It is a lottery for people who pass EMC 109. We can't give preferential treatment to students who are sponsored by agencies.

Updates

14. **EMC Career Fair:** Scheduled for November 28th, 2023 and May 8th, 2024 from 12:00-1:30pm. We offer this at the end of the semester so students are likely to complete classes. Students find it very helpful. You will be sent invitation and chance to RSVP.
15. **Spring Off the Vine:** This is 1 day symposium that has been on hiatus and we want to bring it back. We received grant to do simulation education training and Dr. Maya Dorsett from Rochester will hopefully be simulation trainer (offered at no fee). Nurse educators can benefit as well as paramedics. She will also be speaker at symposium. No date confirmed. There are issues with hosting at the Petaluma campus. Advisory Committee welcome to share ideas on potential speakers. We try to have 1 national, 1 state, and other local speakers to save travel costs. We will need 2-5 sponsors to offset costs. Entrance fees help pay for catering and rest goes to EMC Equipment Fund. We cannot hold it on weekends because of staffing requirements.
16. **Dean Anderson Scholarship Fund:** We would like to develop a scholarship in his name to honor the many contributions Dean Anderson made to the EMC Program. People can contribute to the fund and is very appreciated by the family. An invitation will be sent to community partners and work with college Foundation to establish the scholarship.

EMC Department

17. **EMR Credit by Exam:** No changes.
18. **EMT:** Scott Snyder shared attrition rates. Our national registry exam scores are already very high so now we are focusing on how to keep students. Fall 2021 EMT attrition rate was 24%, Spring 2022 was 32%, Fall 2022 14%, Spring 2023 was 47%. Overall attrition rate was 29%. Enrollment has been increasing, but attrition varies. We are tracking demographics of people who drop out to look for commonalities.
19. **AHA Classes:** We keep cancelling because we aren't getting outside agency sign-ups. We are now holding classes for nursing students and members of HOPE Program which supports Latinx students in health care.
20. **Department Trends:** Still emerging from covid, but doing well. Upward trends in enrollment should continue. Should know Spring enrollment in December.

Next Steps/Comments/Wrap up:

Next EMC and Paramedic Advisory Meeting Date: Monday, April 15, 2024 at 12:00pm.

Adjournment- Erin Olson makes motion to adjourn meeting. Matt Windrem seconds. Unanimous agreement to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 2:05pm.