

WINTER ISSUE - 2020

LIBERTY AMBULANCE NEWSLETTER



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MEET THE TEAM...



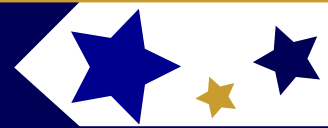
STEPHEN FINE M.A., LMFT, CAPO

Stephen Fine has been in the field of Mental Health for over 28 years. Stephen's work includes providing management and therapeutic services to For-Profit and Non-Profit agencies. Stephen has extensive experience working with individuals and first responders who have been exposed to trauma or are struggling with a substance use disorders utilizing evidence based practices.



Stephen is currently working to develop and implement Mobile Integrated Health Services to local communities and businesses by saving patients expensive trips to the emergency room or hospital, while also treating them where they are most comfortable. Stephen likes to travel, fly radio controlled helicopters and cross train.

RRH EMS Provider Liberty Ambulance Implements New EKG Equipment



Liberty Ambulance deployed new ZOLL® EKG Cardiac Monitors along with training for all EMS personnel. "The monitors are state-of-the-art with enhanced diagnostics that will alert the EMTs, Paramedics or Nurses to life threatening cardiac arrhythmias," said Erin Cocciolone, RN, EMT-P Operations Manager at Liberty Ambulance. "The EKG will then be transmitted instantly to a cardiologist in Bakersfield via Wi-Fi / Bluetooth technology for consultation and confirmation. The EMS personnel in conjunction with the base hospital staff at RRH and the cardiologist then route the patient to the closest most appropriate hospital for immediate therapy locally or more intensive care elsewhere.

"The devices will also enable EMS personnel to simultaneously monitor the patient's vital signs, oxygen levels, and record those levels for the patient's medical record. All of the monitors are equipped with Real CPR Help® technology to nearly triple the odds of patients surviving cardiac arrest and allowing the reading of an underlying rhythm when performing CPR.

Fred Hawkins, EMS Administrator / COO Liberty Ambulance added, "The biggest difference is that we are now going to be operating on the same system as the other first responders in the county like Kern County Fire and California City Fire, as well as the hospitals. For RRH this means supplies, maintenance, cables and training is standardized; reducing costs and most importantly increasing continuity between pre-hospital and emergency care provided by Ridgecrest Regional Hospital.

"It will also make treatment of critical patients more seamless in switching from their AED to our Cardiac monitor," added Cocciolone. "Some of our new monitors are equipped with critical care capabilities invasive blood pressure and temperature monitoring. These new machines will make a huge difference for our community as our EMS personnel will be better equipped to preserve the life of our critical cardiac patients." The new ZOLL EKG units are part of an extensive vehicle and equipment upgrade plan implemented by the hospital, as part of the acquisition of Liberty Ambulance.



Liberty Ambulance Come Together to Save a Life

Friday September 11th is a day that Delilah Padgett will never forget. Early that morning several blockages in her coronary arteries blocked adequate blood flow to her heart, creating a life threatening arrhythmia that if left untreated could have killed her. When Delilah became extremely dizzy and fell her family dialed 9-1-1 and within minutes Kern County Fire Department Engine 74 and RRH/Liberty EMS Paramedic Rescue 2 arrived. The First Responders working together quickly assessed the patient and a new EKG monitor recently implemented in all Liberty Ambulance Paramedic Rescues confirmed the patient was having a STEMI – (ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction), a serious type of heart attack, which is potentially fatal.



Based upon the confirmation of a STEMI and the patient's medical history the decision was made to fly the patient to the closest STEMI center in Lancaster. Mercy Air 14 was notified and the patient was transported to the helipad at Ridgecrest Regional Hospital. The flight crew of Mercy Air 14 took over patient care and the patient was flown to Antelope Valley Hospital where a special STEMI team was awaiting her arrival. Today, Delilah is home and recovering from her life threatening episode.

"By sharing stories like this, our hope is that the general public will understand how much training and preparation the EMS providers invest so that make cases such as this a success" stated Erin Cocciolone, RRH/Liberty Ambulance's Director of EMS Operations.

Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) The new face of Emergency Medical Services



Improving Access to Critical Patient Centered Healthcare Delivered Directly to the Patient in the Out of Hospital Setting. Liberty Ambulance, Ridgecrest Regional Hospital's pre-hospital care provider is tailoring its resources to provide a broad list of services in addition to the traditional ground ambulance services. According to Stephen Fine, Liberty Ambulance's Director of Integrated Health "We will leverage the resources of our entire health system to provide comprehensive pre-hospital care in a mobile environment".

The true value and positive impact of the EMS System is just now being recognized and utilized to its full potential as across the United States providers adjust to the new demand for services. California has formally adopted the "Community Paramedic" program where specially trained paramedics respond to a variety of non-emergency events such as behavioral health issues, hospice care, substance abuse cases, home welfare checks and post discharge follow ups. The goal is to reduce unnecessary emergency department visits, hospital readmissions, and direct patients to the most appropriate point of care **CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...**

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Hospital based EMS Systems such as the RRH/Liberty Ambulance program can coordinate the needs of the patient with the most effective means of care. In the Mobile Integrated Health model, the around the clock availability of EMTs, Paramedics and Pre-Hospital Care Nurses reduces response times and offer the most cost-effective means of providing care.



A major project in the works is implementation of a Critical Care Transport Unit that can transport the most critical patients to and from RRH. The specially made ambulance and highly trained crew can transport critical patients long distances in a controlled environment.

Today, Liberty Ambulance is providing mobile COVID testing to businesses and schools, on-site occupational healthcare, flu immunizations, examinations and first aid services. Paramedics and pre-hospital RN's are being trained to provide post discharge at home visits of cardiac and pulmonary patients, high risk newborn post discharge evaluations, pre-placement substance abuse evaluation and after hours support to the hospice patient and their family.

"This new MIH program will allow EMS personnel to use their special skills to solve challenges facing hospitals and communities to provide quality access to healthcare in the rural areas" stated Fred Hawkins, the hospital's EMS Administrator.



HONORING OUR FIRST RESPONDERS

Thank you for your commitment & service



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