



# County of San Diego

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## **EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE (EMCC) MEETING**

Frank Parra, Chair/ Brian Covell, R.N., Vice-Chair  
c/o Emergency Medical Services  
Zoom Meeting

### Minutes

**Thursday, January 27, 2022**

#### Members Present

Chote, R.N., Chara – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators  
Covell, R.N., Brian – District 2  
Forney, Paul – SD County Ambulance Association  
Froelich, Dan – County Paramedic Agencies' Committee  
George, Sgt, Richard – Law Enforcement Agencies  
Graydon, R.N., Cheryl – Emergency Nurses' Association  
Kahn, M.D., Christopher – District 4  
Ma, M.D., Gene – District 3  
McJannet, R.N., Catherine – District 1  
Molloy, Bernie – SD County Fire Districts' Association  
Parra, Frank – SD County Fire Chiefs' Association  
Rosenberg, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses' Association  
Scott, M.D., Christopher – SD County Medical Society  
Sloan, M.D., Christian – District 5  
Uppenkamp, R.N., Tina – American Red Cross (Alt)  
Wells, R.N., Christine – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators (Alt)  
Wiese, Lisha – Hospital Association of SD/Imperial Counties

#### In Attendance

Beckert, Mark – Carlsbad Fire  
Behm, Jeff – Falck  
Chandler, Craig – Stryker  
Clyons, Jeff - SDFRD  
Donofrio-Odmann, Joelle – RCHSD/SDFRD  
Dotson, R.N., Melody – AMR  
Duffy, Jennifer – SMFD  
Francis, Allen – CDCR/CCHCS  
Garibay, Albert – Barona Fire  
Lawler, Andy – San Miguel Fire  
Lopez, Brent – Reach Air Medical  
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – Grossmont  
Mercer, Kevin – AMR  
Murphy, Mary – North County FPD  
Parker, Seth – CARE Ambulance  
Pearson, Danielle – Chula Vista FD  
Rauto-Shin, Roxanne – Vista Fire  
Ruiz, Sal – CSA 17 EMS Coordinator  
Schadegg, Rochelle – Scripps Mercy SD  
Seabloom, Lynn – Oceanside FD  
Smith, Ray – CVFD  
Stauffer, Kim – SDFRD  
Sullivan, Don – AMR  
Sumek, Caryn – HASDIC  
Timmons, Lance – American Red Cross  
Wilke, Gary – North Zone  
Zimmerman, Stephanie – Mercy Air

#### Not in Attendance

Military Agencies  
SD County Paramedic Association

#### County Staff

Abedin, Sanaa  
Cavanaugh, Adria  
Christison, Brian  
Collins, Jeff  
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)  
Erickson, Kirk  
Gall, Jessica  
Koenig, M.D., Kristi

Martin, Adilver  
McDonald, M.D., Eric  
Parr, Andy  
Pitner, Jaime  
Rogers, Cody  
Smith, PhD, Josh  
Stepanski, Barbara  
Tuteur, M.D., Jennifer

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## I. CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ INTRODUCTIONS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- A. Frank Parra, EMCC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.
- B. The group skipped the Pledge of Allegiance as the meeting was held virtually.
- C. In lieu of introductions, attendance was captured online.
- D. There were no announcements made.

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## II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ PETITIONS

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There were no public comments or petitions.

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## III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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**A motion was made by Dr. Chris Kahn, seconded by Cathy McJanet to approve the November 18, 2021 minutes. Motion carried.**

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## IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

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- A. Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee – Chara Cote, RN**  
The group met. All items that were discussed were old business items. Discussion on Policy S-010.
- B. Education and Research Subcommittee – Cheryl Graydon, RN**  
The group met. Briefly discussed AB 1544 and received an update on the City of San Diego Pilot. The cyber incident project is temporarily on hold due to the COVID spike.
- C. Disaster Planning Subcommittee – Lisha Wiese**  
The County has started a Disaster Medical System Workgroup, which is activated in addition to the Annex D Plan. The workgroup is focused on emergency health and medical operations. Meetings are scheduled throughout the year. The goal is to review, revise, and update the plan with lessons learned from COVID-19 response and recovery. Also have a Cyber Security Workgroup, which started with hospital and emergency management leaders. Continue to collaborate with our pediatric facilities to ensure they don't need assistance from adult facilities during their surge.

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## V. COUNTY REPORTS

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- A. Clinical Report – Kristi Koenig, MD, EMS Medical Director**
  - i. COVID-19 Update  
Dr. Koenig provided an update of the most recent information on the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by a question-and-answer session.
- B. Administrative Report – Andy Parr, EMS Administrator**
  - 1. Medication shortages: Cardiac epinephrine is in increasingly short supply. Would appreciate information coming in from the agencies to [EMSnotifications@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:EMSnotifications@sdcounty.ca.gov) with a snapshot of your current situation.
  - 2. Rady and Scripps Trauma Centers ACS re-verification ongoing: ACS surveys occur every three years. County performs their required survey concurrently. During COVID, all done virtually.

3. Pandemic surge actions: To mitigate the current pandemic surge, County EMS has implemented a number of strategies. These include approving emergency response modifications for the City of San Diego and the San Diego County Operational Area Central Zone. The Assess and Refer authorization was expanded to include low mechanism extremity injuries and, with base hospital approval, other low acuity presentations to the existing low-risk COVID-19 patient category. Agencies that wish to implement the Assess and Refer Option or the P-801 response mode alterations, please review the technical memorandums and EMS notification requirements at [www.SanDiegoCountyEMS.com](http://www.SanDiegoCountyEMS.com).  
In addition, a total of ten ambulances have been deployed to augment 9-1-1 EMS transport capacity in all areas of San Diego County. As of today, there are five local EMT ambulances, four out of county paramedic ambulances, and one out-of-county EMT ambulance comprising this county resource. County EMS thanks the many entities that have worked diligently to support this deployment.
5. Temporary Suspension of ED Diversion: County EMS suspended ED saturation diversion on January 13. Preliminary data indicate this action resulted in improvements in some system metrics, including the availability of ambulances to respond to 9-1-1 calls.  
Following consultation with the Health Services Capacity Task Force Operational Core Group and the Emergency Care Committee's Executive Board, effective 0800 January 27, 2022, deactivation of hospital-initiated emergency department ambulance diversion is extended for an additional 14 days. This deactivation may be modified or extended, as needed. Other elements of County EMS Policy S-010 including specialty diversion, internal disaster diversion, and Duty Officer-initiated ambulance diversion remain in full force and effect.
6. Hospital staffing requests: State-organized staffing support for hospitals and skilled nursing facilities is available. Tri City is adding surge beds and staff to increase capacity; a surge buildout at Paradise Valley Hospital is underway and will come online in the coming days. Additionally, EMSA and the National Guard have provided support at several county skilled nursing facilities.
7. Data Requests for Skilled Nursing Facilities bound patients: data is coming in and it is very informative. All hospitals are encouraged to keep this data coming.
8. Procurements:
  - RFP for Evaluation of Base Station System and Trauma Catchment area designation
  - RFP for Paramedic Ambulance Services for CSA 17
 Both are still in the process at Purchasing and Contracting.
9. Blood Shortage: San Diego County is experiencing a severe blood shortage. Encourage blood donations. Please contact the San Diego Blood bank for times and locations.
10. Base Hospital Assignment Update – ON HOLD: We thank all agencies for returning unit updates to us. Because of the current COVID surge, we are putting this update project on hold. We hope to have more information available in the next few months.
11. EMS Protocol Review for 2022: The EMS team is completing the review of protocol revisions for 2022. Thanks to all those who submitted suggested revisions. The draft revisions are expected to be finalized by February and provided for education in April. Implementation of the revised protocols is scheduled for July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.
12. LEMSIS Updates: The County EMS Elite schematron and data dictionary have been distributed to specific third-party PCR vendors. LEMSA staff have been working closely with 3rd party vendors to prepare for this data integration. The integration pilot project is nearing completion, and the integration of other agencies will begin immediately after that project is finished. EMS agencies may bypass the process of third-party integration by joining LEMSA and the no-cost Elite PCR.
  - i. **EMS Data Presentation – Josh Smith, PhD**  
Local data on COVID cases was shared with the group, which included case counts, positivity rate, transfer of care, and hospital volume.
  - ii. **EMCC Membership – Andy Parr, EMS Administrator**  
Will reach out to the District offices 1 and 4 if they wish to renew. Law Enforcement and San Diego County Paramedic Association and are encouraged to update their memberships.

iii. **Recent Board Action – Andy Parr, EMS Administrator**

There is no EMS-related board actions this month. A presentation on fee adjustments will be shared at the next EMCC meeting. Personnel costs will increase.

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**VI. SYSTEM POLICY REVIEW (EMCC Advisory Position)**

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There were no policies for review.

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**VII. OLD BUSINESS**

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A. Base Hospital/Trauma Catchment Review (Andy Parr, EMS Administrator)

The Statement of Work is in in the final preparation stages.

B. AB 1544: Community Paramedicine or Triage to Alternate Destination Act (Bernie Molloy)

EMSA submitted packet for review in October; went to public comment on December 1 (open for 45 days); closed on January 17; an in-person Zoom public comment session was held on January 18 and was well attended. The two focuses were 1) the education aspect was too stringent (40 hours of training to train paramedics was seen as overly burdensome), and 2) community paramedicine program did not have any caps on what kind of expenses could be charged by the LEMSIS or the state. Has now gone back to EMSA. EMSA is developing regulations based on these comments. Possibility of another public comment session which would likely be a 15-day comment period. The original go live date was March, but now a little behind.

C. Brown Act requirements for Teleconferencing Meetings – AB 361: A Resolution Authorizing Teleconferenced Public Meetings Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953

This resolution allows the committee to continue having teleconference meetings for at least 30 more days.

**A motion was made by Dr. Chris Scott, seconded by Dr. Chris Kahn to approve AB 361 resolution. Motion carried.**

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**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

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A. Fire/EMS Fee Schedule Update

This update is not yet available.

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**B. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT**

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The next EMCC meeting is scheduled on Thursday, February 24, 2022, at 9:30 am via Zoom. Meeting adjourned at 10:08 AM.