



# County of San Diego

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**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY**  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
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CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**“As advisors to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, the Mission of the Emergency Medical Care Committee is to be an advocate for the community through the development of strategies for continuous improvement of the emergency medical services system.”**

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

Frank Parra, Chair/ Chara Cote, R.N., Vice-Chair  
c/o Emergency Medical Services  
9388 Lightwave Ave, San Diego, CA 92123

### Minutes

**Thursday, February 27, 2020**

#### Members Present

Abbott, Stephen – District 5  
Adler, Fred – District 3  
Brainard, Criss – SD County Fire Chiefs' Association (Alt)  
Covell, R.N., Brian – District 2  
Froelich, Dan – County Paramedic Agencies Committee  
Graydon, R.N., Cheryl – Emergency Nurses Association  
Lyons, R.N., Laura – American Red Cross  
Maxwell, Paul – SD County Paramedic Association  
Mercer, Kevin – SD County Ambulance Association  
McJannet, R.N., Catherine – District 1  
Molloy, Bernie – SD County Fire Districts' Association  
Pearson, Danielle – County Paramedic Agencies Committee (Alt)  
Wells, R.N., Chris – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators (Alt)

#### In Attendance

Bey, Christian – UCSD  
Duffy, Jennifer – SMFD  
Kuntz, John – NMFP  
Lord, Scott – Mercy Air  
Meick, Tyler – Reach Air  
Pierce, R.N., Jodi – SD Fire Dept  
Smith, R.N., Zechariah – AMR/CSA17  
Sullivan, Don – AMR  
Sumek, Caryn – HASDIC

#### Not in Attendance

District 4  
Hospital Association of SD/Imperial Counties  
Law Enforcement  
Military Agencies  
San Diego County Medical Society

#### County Staff

Christison, Brian  
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)  
Koenig, M.D., Kristi  
Osth, Cory  
Parr, Andy  
Sigmund, Justin  
Smith, Ph.D., Josh  
Tuteur, M.D., Jennifer

\*Representative positions vacant

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

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Chris Wells, alternate representative to Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators, called the meeting to order at 9:33 am. The group recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions were made. There were no announcements.

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## II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ PETITIONS

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There were no public comments or petitions submitted.

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## III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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**A motion was made by Dan Froelich, seconded by Kevin Mercer to approve the January 23, 2020 minutes. Motion carried.**

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## IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

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### A. Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee – Brian Covell

1. Policy T-705 was reviewed and discussed, with several suggested changes. Staff will make the changes and bring back to the next Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting.
2. Policy T-710 was reviewed and discussed, with several suggested changes. Staff will make the changes and bring back to the next Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting.
3. Policy S-010 was discussed and approved to come back to EMCC.

### B. Education/Research Subcommittee – Cheryl Graydon

Did not meet.

### C. Disaster Planning Subcommittee

Did not meet.

### D. P-801 Ad hoc Committee – Stephen Abbott

Policy P-801 was broken up into 3 components: a, b and c. The policy needs additional work and is not yet ready.

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## V. COUNTY REPORT (Reports)

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### A. Clinical Report – Kristi Koenig, MD

1. Surveillance
  - a. Influenza
    - i. Flu activity is no longer increasing, but flu is still widespread in CoSD
    - ii. FluWatch updated weekly (started 2 weeks early this season)  
<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/hhsa/programs/phs/documents/InfluenzaWatch.pdf>
    - iii. As of February 26, 17,935 cases (compared to 5,486 last season), 74 deaths (compared to 41 last season), 54 outbreaks – cases may be underestimated due to less testing
    - iv. Mostly Flu A; ED ILI 6% of all visits (down from 8% last week)
    - v. Health Officer Order for Influenza Vaccination Program or Masking of Healthcare Personnel during Annual Influenza Season remains in effect.

<http://www.sdiz.org/documents/HCP/SDIB-Bulletins/Health-Officer-Order-Mandatory-Vaccination-or-Masking-FINAL.PDF>

- vi. This order is ongoing indefinitely and applies to each and future influenza season unless the order is rescinded. For purposes of this order, the influenza season is defined as November 1 – March 31 of the following year. In any given year, if influenza surveillance data demonstrate unusually early and/or late peaks, the Health Officer may extend the period during which the masking program shall apply for that year. This means as of November 1 each season (at the latest) you must be vaccinated or wear a mask.
- b. Mumps – outbreak of six cases among SDSU students
  - i. Baja CA had 900 reported cases in 2019 and 138 cases to date in 2020
- c. COVID-19 – Initial Miramar mission completed, moving into new phase
  - i. 2019-nCoV: The Identify-Isolate-Inform (3I) Tool Applied to a Novel Emerging Coronavirus <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/0ch1h302>
  - ii. [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2Fnovel-coronavirus-2019.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2Fnovel-coronavirus-2019.html)
  - iii. Standard, droplet, and aerosol precautions would apply (hand washing, gloves and eye protection along with an N-95 respirator)
  - iv. Patient-to-healthcare provider transmission has been reported in hospitals
  - v. Destination considerations memo distributed and available on the website
2. Policies and Protocols
  - a. Protocol review underway for implementation July 1, 2020
    - i. Public comment period closed November 1, 2019; Protocol Task Force met November 15<sup>th</sup>. BSPC reviewed adult protocols last month and pediatric protocols this month
  - b. Drug Shortages
    - i. Continuing to closely monitor – please order your meds and supplies EARLY
    - ii. North County experiencing shortages: D50, Calcium Chloride, & Cardiac Epi
    - iii. Recall of fentanyl
    - iv. Anticipate additional shortages due to supply chain disruptions (China manufactures components)
3. Initiatives
  - a. Paramedic Regs [https://emsa.ca.gov/public\\_comment/](https://emsa.ca.gov/public_comment/)
    - i. Approved at EMS Commission in December for approval; Approved by OAL and will be effective April 1, 2020
  - b. Community Paramedicine
    - i. OSPHD has approved another extension of the existing pilot projects through November 2020
  - c. New State Stroke and STEMI TAC had first (very good!) meeting – Lorraine Calzone, RN from County EMS has been appointed
  - d. DV Strangulation Initiative
    - i. As a follow on to the Oct 16<sup>th</sup> - All day training for healthcare staff (train-the-trainers), 6-week webinar series in 2020
  - e. 2019-2020 All-Hazard Health Services Capacity Management Plan

- i. Capacity Plan moved from Enhanced Surveillance to Partial Activation and back to Enhanced Surveillance and then back to Baseline Surveillance
- ii. Each ED to report daily BOARDING numbers at shift change (including BH)
- iii. ONE time only at shift change – enter data into Resource Bridge
- f. EBM presentations posted online at medical director page
  - i. This month's presentation was on COVID-19
  - ii. [https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/emergency\\_medical\\_services/medical\\_director.html](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/emergency_medical_services/medical_director.html)

A discussion followed regarding potential shortages of medications and equipment. Dr. Koenig suggests ordering ahead of time. Shortage notifications can be sent to [MCSDENotifications.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:MCSDENotifications.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov).

## **B. Administrative Report – Andy Parr**

- 1) Paramedic regulations updates: The EMSA Paramedic regulation changes were approved by the California Office of Administrative Law in January, and will go into effect on April 1. There is a strikeout version of the text available on the EMSA webpage.
- 2) Procurements: San Marcos Operating Area – Notice of Intent to Award has been posted for the San Marcos Service Area. Purchasing and Contracting will be working with San Marcos to sign a contract soon. Unified Service Area – The County's internal selection process is underway, and more information will be available soon.
- 3) EMS Protocols, Policies and Procedures: EMS Staff continue their work to editing and sort feedback for this year's revisions. Adult Protocols will be routed through our BSPC Meetings (Pediatric Protocols will be reviewed this month). In addition to the protocol updates, several system policies are proceeding through the EMCC review and feedback process. (All would become effective July 1, 2020)
- 4) Help Wanted at the EMS Office: EMS Specialist recruitment closed on February 17. We are also looking for a QA Specialist, and more information can be found on the County's website for the open positions. Only the QAS requires a RN License. You can also contact the EMS Administrator's office for more details (<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/hr/>). EMS/Fire Liaison position opening soon!
- 5) EMCC Change of Venue for 2020: EMCC meetings in Calendar Year 2020 will be held at National University in Clairemont Mesa. Please see the EMCC flier on the EMS website at [SanDiegoCountyEMS.com](http://SanDiegoCountyEMS.com) for more information and a map to National University. EMCC meets on the 4th Thursday of every month except August and December.
- 6) Love Your Heart event on Friday, February 14, 2020: Love Your Heart is HHSA's premier preventive health event in which organizations from across the U.S. and Mexico join together to provide FREE blood pressure screenings to the public on Valentine's Day, February 14. Agencies were thanked for their participation in this year's event.
- 7) State Fees are Going up! County Fees are staying the same! As of July 1, 2020, State fee rise by \$25 in each category. County MICN Authorization, EMT Certification and Paramedic Accreditation Fees will remain the same for FY 20/21.
- 8) Nonoperational County owned EMS radios need to come home! All nonoperational County owned EMS 800mhz radios are being recalled by the County. We are searching for Mobile and Portable Radios with a Property of the County of San Diego on it. It doesn't matter to us if the equipment is broken or damaged, if the battery is missing or if the radio is just not working...The radio just needs to come

home, no questions asked. EMS is specifically looking for older ASTRA W7 radios that have recently stopped working which was caused by the most recent upgrade to the County's RCS System. To make it easy to return this equipment, feel free to drop off radio equipment in the lobby of our EMS Office, give the equipment to an EMS staff member, leave the equipment at RCS, or we'll come get the equipment. If you need more information on the County owned EMS radio recall (and/or which radios are being recalled) please contact the EMS radio desk at 619-285-6405 or the PHPR/EMS Duty Officer at [SDEMSDO@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:SDEMSDO@sdcounty.ca.gov).

**ACTION: County EMS staff will provide the following:**

- email address on the EMS website for info on infectious disease reporting
- links of references that were discussed

**i. Ambulance Operating Areas for 2020 EMS Plan**

A map was provided listing the Ambulance Operating Areas for 2020. Our EMS Plan gets submitted annually. It is critical to know which agencies are responding to which calls, the number of calls they go to, and the number of transports. As part of the change, including the Unified Service area and an agreement for Harmony Grove, there are now 29 operating areas being monitored by the county.

**C. MCSD Report – Jennifer Tuteur, MD**

Dr. Tuteur made a couple of announcements: 1) She thanked all those (hospitals, agencies, departments, etc.) who participated in the Love Your Heart event for their tremendous support and community presence; as the 9<sup>th</sup> year, the sites increased by 35%; final numbers to be provided. 2) She thanked everyone involved in the Corona Virus matter for providing education and preparing the teams and the hospitals with following the same process and protocol.

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**VI. TRANSFER OF CARE (TOC) REPORTING – Josh Smith**

- The LEMSIS button on the First Watch hospital dashboard has been deactivated but still appears there
- The latest data is updated on the EMS website

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

**A. T-716: Repatriation of Stable Trauma Service Health Plan Members**

**A motion was made by Brian Covell, seconded by Kevin Mercer to approve Policy T-716. Motion carried.**

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**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

No old business.

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**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

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**X. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT**

The next EMCC meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2020.  
Meeting adjourned at 10:08 AM.