



County of San Diego

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AGENCY DIRECTOR

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
Virtual meeting via Bluejeans

Minutes

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Members Present

Abbott, Stephen – District 5
Adler, Fred – District 3
Carlson, R.N., Sharon – Hosp. Assoc. of SD/Imp Counties (Alt)
Cote, R.N., Chara – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators
Covell, R.N., Brian – District 2
Froelich, Dan – County Paramedic Agencies Committee
Graydon, R.N., Cheryl – Emergency Nurses Association
Kahn, M.D., Christopher – District 4
Lyons, R.N., Laura – American Red Cross
Maxwell, Paul – SD County Paramedic Association
McJannet, R.N., Catherine – District 1
Mednick, R.N., Cheryl – American Red Cross
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

In Attendance

Dodson, R.N., Melody – UCSD
Francis, Allen – CA Correctional Healthcare Svcs.
Hayflich, Vanessa – Mercy Air/AirMethods
Lopez, Brent – Reach Air
Lord, Scott – Mercy Air
Meadows-Pitt, Mary – Sharp Grossmont
Pierce, Jodi – San Diego Fire Rescue
Rice, Mike – AMR
Seabloom, Lynn – Oceanside FD
Sloan, M.D., Christian – Mercy Air/North Zone
Vilke, M.D., Gary – North Zone

Not in Attendance

Law Enforcement Agencies
Military Agencies
SD County Ambulance Association

County Staff

Beam, Jamie
Christison, Brian
Conover, Bill
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)
Koenig, M.D., Kristi
Parr, Andy
Tuteur, M.D., Jennifer

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

Frank Parra, EMCC Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Due to the meeting being virtual, the group did not recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions were made. There were no announcements.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ PETITIONS

There were no public comments or petitions submitted.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dan Froelich, seconded by Dr. Chris Kahn to approve the February 27, 2020 minutes. Motion carried.

IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee – Brian Covell

Did not meet.

B. Education/Research Subcommittee – Cheryl Graydon

Did not meet.

C. Disaster Planning Subcommittee – Sharon Carlson

Did not meet.

V. COUNTY REPORT (Reports)

A. Clinical Report – Kristi Koenig, MD

i. COVID-19 Update

The County is using a 3-pronged strategy to handle the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 1) Flattening the curve
- 2) Increasing healthcare system capacity
- 3) Working through an Incident Command System structure

Flattening the curve:

- Transmission of the virus is being decreased through non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) being done such as staying at home, physical distancing, and covering the face when going out for essential duties. A number of tools, techniques and strategies have been implemented.
- Working closely with the healthcare systems. Have regular meetings with hospital CEOs and hospital CMOs. Have very close collaboration with the hospitals.
- Due to early implementations, San Diego County is doing fairly well compared to other parts of the country and world.

Increasing healthcare system capacity:

- Currently the biggest concern is the uptick from people crossing the border, in particular Mexico, which is being monitored very closely.

- System capacity is going very well; have historic excess capacity like never seen before. Low prehospital and inpatient volumes in hospitals. Looking at techniques to redistribute volume to maintain healthcare capacity across the entire county.

Working within an Incident Command System:

- Working with each hospital, counties and cities and coordinating through the incident command system. Looking at the healthcare system capacity through the 3S system of the surge capacity: Stuff, Staff, and Structure. Must have all three components in order to care for patients and have patient capacity.

It is believed the virus is widespread and was most likely circulating long before people were aware of it in our community, due to reports from California that autopsies have been done as early as last December and found COVID-19.

There are concerns that people are not accessing emergency care when they should be. Seem to be afraid and not understand that safety measures are in place and have good capacity. Historically low volumes of STEMI and strokes and some traumatic types of injuries.

B. Administrative Report – Andy Parr

Andy Parr has been working the last six weeks at the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The function at the EOC is to work through the Incident Command System.

The EOC looks after the following:

- Cruise Ships
 - Border Situation
 - Federal Medical Station
 - Laboratory testing
 - Outreach calls to a number of sectors.
 - Public Health Hotel
 - Convention Center Shelter
 - PPE shortages of N95s and gowns
 - County funds from Government
 - Press Conferences at 2:30 pm M-F
 - Planned Protests
- i. Unified Service Area Report (last one)
The contractor for the Unified Service Area is Mercy Medical Transportation Inc., who was the previous contractor. They began service on April 1, 2020. This item will no longer be placed on the agenda.

Items that County EMS has pushed out, which are posted at www.sandiegocountyems.com.

- County Public Health Orders
 - CoSD EMS Frequently Asked Question document updates
 - CoSD EMS All-Provider Communications
 - CoSD EMS Call for EMS Volunteers
 - CoSD EMS Memos
- Health Services Capacity Task Force (HSCTF)

- All Hazard Health Services Capacity Management Plan (activated throughout this season)
- Operational Core Group calls
- Expanded Operational Group calls

Additional information and resources regarding COVID-19 can be found at www.sandiegocounty.gov/coronavirus.

There was a discussion on testing for healthcare workers.

ACTION: County EMS will provide clarification on testing for asymptomatic healthcare workers.

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

No report.

VII. SYSTEM POLICY REVIEW (EMCC Advisory Position)

All routine policies and protocols have been postponed to the following cycle. In addition, County EMS has accelerated any COVID-19 related policies and procedures.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

IX. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

Closing Remarks:

County EMS has been thrilled with the level of cooperation and support from the EMS community and partners.

The next EMCC meeting is planned to be held virtually and is scheduled for May 28, 2020. Meeting adjourned at 10:43 AM.