



## BASE STATION PHYSICIANS' COMMITTEE (BSPC) AND PREHOSPITAL AUDIT COMMITTEE (PAC) MEETINGS

Tuesday, September 26, 2023 | 11:00 am

Minutes/Notes

### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS (Gary Vilke, MD)

Dr. Vilke called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting minutes from July 18, 2023 were approved.

### 3. OPENING REMARKS (Kristi Koenig, MD)

Dr. Koenig provided information on the following topics:

- The Fall monovalent COVID-19 vaccine is now available.
  - Vaccines are encouraged to protect you, your family, and our patients.
- The Quarterly EMS Meetings were in town last week and at the EMS Commission.
  - TXA, IV Acetaminophen and Ketamine were all approved to move from Local Optional Scope of Practice status to Basic Scope.
  - Before implementation they must moved through an administrative process, so we will continue use each of them under a LOSOP within our system.
  - Ketamine and IV Acetaminophen are to be used for pain control only.
- San Diego LEMSA played a major role in moving Ketamine into Basic Scope of Practice for the State of California.
  - The entire process to move Ketamine from Trial Study status to Basic Scope of Practice took more than 5 years and is a real success story.
- Revive & Survive
  - A new initiative between County EMS Office and UCSD School of Public Health.
  - Goal is to train 1 million people in Hands-Only CPR by the end of 2024.
  - Recruiting additional community and academic partners.
  - Please reach out to Tyler Meick for additional information.
- Dr. Veer Vithalani will present next month's Evidence Based Medicine lecture on Prehospital Respiratory Airway Management.

### 4. DATA PRESENTATION (Paige Schoenheit)

San Diego County Stroke Consortium Annual Stroke Data Presentation and Review of Goals.

- Contains data from 2019 – 2022.
- Mode of Arrival data.
- Number of Stroke Diagnosis per year.
- Last Known Well to Arrival Time by Mode of Arrival.
- Stroke Consortium Goals 2016 – 2022 progress review.

### 5. COUNTY REPORT (Christi Robbins)

- Health Services Capacity Plan Level: Plan Level 4 – Enhanced Surveillance.
- The Comprehensive Base Station Hospital and Trauma Catchment Area Consultant

As part of this ongoing work, the stakeholder survey recently concluded. This survey collected detailed feedback from field providers, emergency department staff, agency administrators, specialty care centers, and the general public. The survey closed on June 30 and the comments received will be informative to our contractor team.

This survey, along with other research and stakeholder input, will assist in the formulation of 6 different models for us to compare as models for the future of the EMS base hospital system in San Diego County. The Consultant will also be looking at the Trauma Center Catchment Area Map to assure that Trauma Centers receive an optimal balance of Trauma calls at each center and other demographic updates for the catchment map. Additional information and timelines are posted on the County EMS webpage.

Community Engagement Page: [Base Station Hospital & Trauma Catchment Review | Engage San Diego County](#)

CoSD EMS Informational Page: [Comprehensive Evaluation of the Base Hospital System and Trauma Center Catchment Area Designation \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)

- **Protocols**

The County EMS Office is pleased to announce the 2024-2025 EMS Treatment Protocol Revision cycle is underway. Last year, we trialed a more efficient protocol revision process that allowed for greater participation from the EMS community. This process included an online solution where all system participants could easily submit their comments.

All treatment protocols are available for comment between September 1 to October 1, 2023. To be considered for this protocol revision cycle, **we must receive your comments no later than October 1, 2023.**

EMS community members can submit their comments via our online form: <https://forms.office.com/g/M925gdgUce>

- **EMS Mobile App**

The EMS Mobile App was launched in May. This app is a browser-based application that works on any device with an internet connection and web browser. We are continuously updating the content and recently added additional information in the References section.

EMS Mobile App: [Home \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)

- **EMS Website**

The County EMS website was recently updated to help visitors navigate the website more efficiently and improve the overall user experience. The homepage was reorganized to include buttons for quick access to some of our important services: credentialing, permitting, and the EMS system. The main menu at the top was updated and now has links to all our internal pages. Lastly, we created a new page called EMS System Overview, which provides a summary of our local system and the contact information for all our fire agencies, permitted ambulance providers, and hospitals.

- **Unified Service Area (USA) to Ambulance Service Area (ASA) Transition**

In 2020, following study, community engagement, and a competitive procurement, the Unified Service Area began paramedic ambulance service operations. The Unified Service Area (or USA) dramatically improved the level of service throughout most of the rural reaches of our county. At the direction of the Board of Supervisors, this service area is transitioning to the San Diego County Fire Protection District Ambulance Service Area, or ASA, with the County Fire team who are assuming all administrative and operational responsibilities for ambulance service in this area. The ASA will also provide 911 exclusive service in the Ramona and Borrego Springs subzones. This operational change is already in transition and County Fire will assume exclusive responsibility of the ASA as of October 1, 2023.

- **Immunization Administration Clarification**

The County EMS Office has received several inquiries regarding paramedic-administered immunizations. While the EMS Office continues to support these EMS-based public health initiatives, the current statutory language prohibits paramedics (or EMTs) from administering immunizations without an accompanying emergency declaration. Unfortunately, this also

limits occupational medicine-related vaccination drives where on-duty staff could receive a vaccination from a licensed paramedic and not a nurse. Since the COVID-related Governor's Executive Order concluded on February 28, 2023, the ability for EMS providers to administer immunizations ended, and existing scope of practice rules embedded in state law returned to full force. The LEMSA continues to advocate for a legislative solution to this limitation.

## 6. MEDICATION SHORTAGE MITIGATION (Michael Assof)

- Website updates include a new Medication Shortages page which lists several mitigation strategies.
  - Current shortages, updates and potential systemwide shortages.
  - Active Communications and Exemptions.
- Asking for agencies to work closely with their physicians to help develop potential solutions.
- [EMSnotification@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:EMSnotification@sdcounty.ca.gov)

## 7. OPIOID EPIDEMIC MITIGATION (Tyler Meick)

- Leave Behind Naloxone Program
  - Under EMS Protocol S-134, The Leave Behind Naloxone Program authorizes EMS agencies, first responders, and fire departments to distribute naloxone to those who would benefit following an emergency patient contact when a patient refuses transport after a naloxone field reversal or a suspected opioid-related overdose.
  - Over eleven agencies are currently registered for the program and several others intend to register.
  - Reminder for those agencies currently participating, please send in your quarterly reports to Nate Burger @ [Nathan.burger@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Nathan.burger@sdcounty.ca.gov).
  - Nathan Burger is the contact for the Leave Behind Naloxone Program.
- Prehospital Buprenorphine
  - S-145 Opioid Withdrawal and Use Disorder Protocol.
  - Covers the San Diego County LOSOP to administer Buprenorphine/Naloxone to patients who are in withdrawal.
  - This Prehospital pilot program will go live on October 2.
  - Beginning on October 2, AMR units in the CSA 17 will begin screening opioid withdrawal patients using the COWS Score. Patients that meet criteria will be enrolled in in the Prehospital Buprenorphine Program.
  - Agencies will utilize Highland Hospital as an alternate base during the pilot program but will additionally contact their assigned base to determine destination or receive further direction.
  - Patients will be encouraged to connect with a Substance Use Navigator, through the Emergency Department.
    - Patients will then be directed to Medication Assisted Treatment.
  - County of San Diego EMS is working with multiple stakeholders to bridge the gaps in the EMS Opioid response.
  - We anticipate additional agencies will join the pilot program in the near future.
  - San Diego County Fire and Escondido Fire will be joining the program soon.
  - Please contact Tyler Meick for additional information, [Tyler.Meick@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Tyler.Meick@sdcounty.ca.gov).

## 8. COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE (Tyler Meick)

- The County of San Diego EMS Office has submitted our State application to allow approved San Diego County EMS agencies to participate in Community Paramedicine.
  - It may take the State EMS Authority up to 30 days to review the application.
- Our application included a proposal to participate in the Case Management - High Utilizer option, as well as the program's provisional protocols and policies, community needs assessment and a program focused training curriculum.

- EMS Office is working with multiple agencies and stakeholders to expand our Triage to Alternate Destination program.
- There are currently no facilities that meet the requirements to be an approved Alternate Destination, however EMS office will continue working to identify Alternate Destination receiving sites.
- For additional information, please visit our Community Paramedicine webpage.

## 9. CARDIAC UPDATES

- CARES (Brad Schwartz, MD)
  - Dr Schwartz provided a CARES update.
  - For 2022, the National Survival rate dropped to 9.3% from over 10%.
  - San Diego Survival rate dropped to 8.3%.
  - A more detailed analysis of CARES will be provided in the near future.
- Bystander CPR Workgroup (Brad Schwartz, MD)
  - Goal is to bring awareness of hands-on CPR and train 1 million people.
  - Working with UCSD School of Public Health on promotional ideas.
  - Would like to create a Public Service Announcement to show at stadiums, music venues, etc. Meetings coming up with Petco, Snap Dragon, and Sycuan. Also looking into social media.
  - Please contact Dr. Schwartz if interested or for more information @ [bradschwartz66@gmail.com](mailto:bradschwartz66@gmail.com).
- San Diego Resuscitation Consortium Workgroup (Saul Levine, MD)
  - This is an effort to get select cardiac arrest patients to centers that can perform ECMO/ECPR.
  - Protocols have been approved and went into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Enrollment has been fairly slow as expected.
  - Five cases in July and nine cases in August have been flagged for this program.
  - Continued scrutiny on these cases.
  - Taking steps towards educating agencies and hospitals that are participating in the program.
  - Main focus will be on continued education for Field Care providers.
  - Monthly meetings are planned.
  - Please contact Dr. Levine for more information @ [levine.saul@gmail.com](mailto:levine.saul@gmail.com).

## 10. ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS/BSPC ADJOURNMENT (Gary Vilke, MD)

- The BSPC meeting was adjourned at 11:46 am.

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### \*\*\*EVIDENCE BASED MEDICINE PRESENTATION\*\*\*

“California EMS – a historical perspective and emerging challenges for the future”  
Dr. David Duncan

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## PAC MEETING

CHAired BY (Andy Fischer, MD)

1. CONFIRMATION OF CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENTS (Christi Robbins)
2. CALL TO ORDER (Saul Levine, MD)

- Dr. Levine called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.

**3. BASE HOSPITAL NURSE COORDINATORS (BHNC) REPORT (Brian Covell, RN)**

- Brian Covell shared the following friendly reminders and updates from last week's BHNC meeting:
  - When making radio contact, please remember to say what agency you are from.
  - FAST-ED – When positive on Be-Fast, remember to do FAST-ED.
  - ECPR – Limit time on scene, be aware of timeline.

**4. MAC REPORT (Jennifer Farah, MD)**

Three cases were discussed, as were PAC Pearls.

**5. PAC REPORT (Saul Levine, MD)**

Seven cases were discussed, as were PAC Pearls. A Q&A session followed.

- Please scan QR code on slides and submit survey form by midnight tomorrow with feedback, to help create PAC Pearls for the month.

**6. WRAP UP & NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT**

The next BSPC/PAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday October 17, 2023.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:43 pm.