



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

Tuesday, October 17, 2023 | 11:00 am

Minutes/Notes

1. CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS (Jennifer Farah, MD)

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

- Dr. Alexandra Bensel from UCSD Emergency Medicine was introduced.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting minutes from September 26, 2023 were approved.

3. OPENING REMARKS (Kristi Koenig, MD)

- Congratulations to Dr. Jennifer Farah on her achievement to become Fellow of the Academy of Emergency Medical Services (FAEMS).
- Dr. Koenig provided information on the following topics:
- October is Sudden Cardiac Awareness month.
 - 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
- The new Fall Covid-19 vaccine and Influenza vaccines are available now.
 - Vaccines are encouraged to protect you, your family, and our patients.
- Public Health Officer Flu Order was posted last Friday, earlier than usual.
 - If you are not vaccinated, masking is required in patient care areas as of November 1st.
- Next month's Evidence Based Medicine Presentation will be on Xylazine.

4. DATA PRESENTATION (Colin King)

Colin King provided a presentation on Bystander CPR Data.

- Base Hospital Record (BHR) Surveillance.
- Provider Impressions over time.
- Prehospital Care Record (PCR) Surveillance.
- Bystander CPR improves health outcomes.
- Cardiac Arrest Metrics.
- Health Equity Zip Code Metrics.
- Revive & Survive Initiative
 - Goal to train 1 million San Diegans in Bystander CPR in 2024.

5. COUNTY REPORT (Christi Robbins)

- Health Services Capacity Plan [Level](#): Plan Level 4 – Enhanced Surveillance
Southern California Fire Preparedness [Level](#): Plan Level 2
- **The Comprehensive Base Station Hospital and Trauma Catchment Area Consultant**

The County's consultant's work is ongoing. This work includes providing 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.

The next community engagement phase will include listening sessions on November 7-9. These sessions will be held in each of the Supervisorial Districts. Additional information will be distributed as details are finalized.

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 2024-2025 EMS Treatment Protocol Revision cycle concluded on October 1. A survey was posted online from September 1 – October 1 for the EMS community to provide feedback on treatment protocols. The survey received over 70 responses from various system participants ranging from EMTs to physicians.

The next step is to review the public comments and incorporate any revisions into draft protocols. The draft protocols will be presented at the Base Station Physicians' Committee or BSPPC in early 2024.

- **EMS Mobile App**

The EMS Mobile App was launched in May. This is a browser-based application that works on any device with an internet connection and web browser. We are continuously updating the content in the References section and welcome any suggestions for new additions.

The EMS Mobile App received approximately 6,000 visits and 11,000 pageviews last month.

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.

- **Upcoming State Paramedic Scope of Practice changes**

The EMS Commission met in September and voted on a regulatory update to move TXA, ketorolac, ketamine, and IV acetaminophen from Local Optional Scope of Practice to basic scope, lowering the regulatory burden for LEMSAs adopting these treatment modalities.

The vote passed and the next step in the process is for the decision to go through the California Office of Administrative Law. The EMS Authority anticipates this process will take multiple months before the changes are finalized. As of now, these medications remain as Local Optional Scope of Practice and we will provide an update once the regulatory changes go into effect.

- **Public Comment Process**

Public Comment Posting Notification email “subscription” is active. Please submit your email if you would like to receive notification of upcoming public comment periods as well as reminders of when a public comment period is coming to an end.

“Coming Soon” policy notifications are regularly updated.

Comments will be shared with the Prehospital/ Hospital Subcommittee as well as posted to the Recently Concluded Public Comment Drafts.

Public Comment Page: [Online Public and Stakeholder Comment Submission \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/publiccomment)

- **Current Medication Shortages**

County EMS is aware of multiple medication shortages and has issued guidance on albuterol, ketamine, ipratropium, albuterol, and activated charcoal.

Additional information on these medication shortages, as well as mitigation strategies, can be found on our new Medication Shortages page.

Medication Shortages Page: [Medication Shortages \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/medication-shortages)

County EMS Office Holiday Closure Advisory

- Veterans Day, Friday, November 10th
- Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 23rd
- Day after Thanksgiving, Friday, November 24th
- Christmas Day, Monday, December 25th
- New Years Day, Monday January 1st, 2024

6. EMSC (Michael Assof)

- We are looking to invigorate the EMS for Children (EMSC) Advisory Committee to help elevate and strengthen our pediatric care in the County.
- What is EMSC?
 - Specialty care program and a subdivision of EMSA.
 - The goal of the EMSC program is to ensure that acutely ill and injured children have access to high quality, coordinated, and comprehensive emergency and critical care services appropriate for special needs of children.
- Why is EMSC important?
 - High pediatric readiness in EDs is associated with better outcomes for children.

7. EMSC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (Michael Assof)

- Goal of re-establishing EMSC Advisory Committee S-018.
- To develop a plan, listing goals, priorities, and timeline.

- To convene small workgroups of the Advisory Committee and others to work with the CoSD EMS Medical Director or designee on specific medical management issues and community initiatives.
- To consult with other medical professionals as necessary.
- To provide steering recommendations for the implementation of EMSC related projects.
- To develop recommended policies and procedures concerning medical care delivery for children, community preparedness, access to medical care, and illness and injury prevention.
- To develop programs providing public education concerning EMSC and related projects
- To participate in the implementation of approved policies concerning access to the medical care to children in our community.
- An informational meeting will be held on November 21, 2023 @3:00 pm – 4:00 pm.
- Goal of the meeting is to create a roadmap for the implementation of EMSC.
- If interested, please reach out to Adilver Martin @ Adilver.Martin1@sdcounty.ca.gov.

8. 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.
 - Currently eleven agencies are registered in the program.
 - Reminder for those agencies currently participating, please send in your quarterly reports to Nate Burger @ 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 went live on October 2nd.
 - Beginning on October 2, units in Escondido and CSA 17 began screening opioid withdrawal patients using the COWS Score. Patients that meet criteria will be enrolled 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.
 - Please contact Tyler Meick for additional information, Tyler.Meick@sdcounty.ca.gov.

9. 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.

10. CARDIAC UPDATES

- CARES (Brad Schwartz, MD)
 - Dr Schwartz provided a CARES update.
 - Working on collecting all the data.
 - Overall discharge survival rate has gone down about 20%.
 - High quality CPR training is needed.
- Bystander CPR Workgroup (Brad Schwartz, MD)
 - Bystander CPR is moving along.
 - Partnering with UCSD School of Public Health on Revive & Thrive Initiative.
 - Goal is to bring awareness of hands-on CPR and train 1 million people.
 - In process of identifying strategic partners.
 - Working on timeline and tasks to accomplish goal of training 1 million people.
 - Please contact Dr. Schwartz if interested or for more information @ bradschwartz66@gmail.com.
- San Diego Resuscitation Consortium Workgroup (Saul Levine, MD)
 - Dr. Levine reviewed a recent case, pearls were discussed.
 - Reviewing past data, looking for missed opportunities or areas for improvement.
 - For patients in Cardiac Arrest, it is important to describe the rhythm.
 - S-127 – ECPR Decision Algorithm protocol review.
 - Protocol clarifications came out in August 2023.
 - EMS Cardiac Monitor Data Retention Community Consensus Guidance memo.
 - Summarizes request for data retention.
 - Please contact Dr. Levine for more information @ levine.saul@gmail.com.

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

- The BSPC meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am.

EVIDENCE BASED MEDICINE PRESENTATION

“Capnography: Not just for the intubated”

Dr. Veer Vithalani

PAC MEETING

CHAired BY (Andy Fischer, MD)

1. CONFIRMATION OF CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENTS (Christi Robbins)

2. CALL TO ORDER (Andy Fischer, MD)

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

3. BASE HOSPITAL NURSE COORDINATORS (BHNC) REPORT (Brian Covell, RN and Melody Dotson, RN)

- Brian Covell and Melody Dotson shared the following reminders and updates from last week’s BHNC meeting:

- Transportation agencies are asked to contact receiving hospitals.
- All Bases have been experiencing radio issues lately.
- BLS Radio Fleet Map needs updating to include Kaiser San Marcos.
- For MICN incidents, transporting units should contact Med Com, following protocol.

4. MAC REPORT (Jennifer Farah, MD)

No Report

5. PAC REPORT (Andy Fischer, MD)

Two 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 November 21, 2023.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:47 pm.

DRAFT