



County of San Diego

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE (EMCC) MEETING

Paul Forney, Chair/ Dr. Chris Scott, Vice Chair
c/o SD County Emergency Medical Services Office
County Administration Center
1600 Pacific Highway, BOS Room 302, San Diego, CA 92101

Minutes **Thursday, January 25, 2024**

Members Present

Bojanowski, R.N., Michael – American Red Cross
Cote, R.N., Chara – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators
Forney, Paul – SD County Ambulance Association
Jordan, Jonathan – SD County Fire Districts' Association
Kahn, M.D., Christopher – District 4
Muns, Harry – SD County Fire Chiefs' Association
Murphy, Mary – County Paramedic Agencies Committee (Alt)
Scott, M.D., Christopher – SD County Medical Society
Wiese, Lisha – Hospital Association of SD/Imperial Counties

In Attendance

Clyons, Jeff – SDFRD
Hughes, Sarah – RCCP
Lozano, Steven – SDFD
Ruiz, Sal – CSA 17 EMS Coordinator
Vithalani, Veer – Palomar Health

Not in Attendance

District 1
District 2
District 3
District 5
Emergency Nurses' Association
Law Enforcement Agencies
Military Agencies
SD County Paramedic Association

County Staff

Assof, Michael
Collins, Jeff
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)
Meick, Tyler
Parr, Andy
Rogers, Cody
Trousdale, Brad

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

- A. Paul Forney, EMCC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM. A quorum was declared.
- B. The group recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. There were no introductions.
- D. An announcement was made about the EMCC meeting locations in 2024. Room reservations can only be scheduled six months in advance. From January – June, EMCC meetings will be held downtown at the CAC except in May, where it will be held at the North Inland Live Well Center in Escondido.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ PETITIONS

There were no public comments or petitions.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Jonathan Jordan, seconded by Harry Muns to approve the November 16, 2023 EMCC minutes. Motion carried.

IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee – Chara Cote, RN

Did not meet.

B. Education and Research Subcommittee – Chara Cote, RN on behalf of Cheryl Graydon, RN

Did not meet.

C. Disaster Planning Subcommittee – Lisha Wiese

- Hospitals are preparing for a medical response exercise on April 30
- Additional activities going on this year with drilling, training, etc. Dates will be provided when available.

V. COUNTY REPORT

A. Administrative Report – Andy Parr, EMS Administrator

- Alvarado Hospital Transition to UCSD East: Alvarado Hospital is transitioning to UCSD Health system. This campus will be known as “UCSD East” and effective December 11, 2023. The current services, including ED, stroke, and STEMI, will continue. Additional updates will be forthcoming.
- 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.

County staff are diligently reviewing these public comments to incorporate into draft protocols. The draft protocols will be presented at the Base Station Physicians’ Committee (or BSPC) in the coming months.

- New Online Reporting Platform for APS Referrals: Aging & Independence Services (AIS) has transitioned to a new online reporting platform for APS referrals. To report suspected elder or dependent adult abuse or self-neglect, use the new link below:

<https://sandiego.leapsportal.net/LEAPSIntake/NewPublicIntakeReport.aspx>

You do not need a username and password to use the new online system. In addition, a SOC 341 form is no longer required if you use the online referral option above. Referrals can still be made by calling the AIS Call Center at 800-339-4661.

The [Mandatory Reporting](#) page has been updated and the San Diego County EMS Office is in the process of revising policy S-411 Reporting of Suspected Child, Dependent Adult, or Elder Abuse/Neglect to reflect these changes.

- EMS Mobile App: The EMS Mobile App was updated to include an option to comment on EMS treatment protocols, policies open for public comment, and submit feedback for the EMS Mobile App. Users can navigate to the References section, then click on “EMS App, Protocol, and Policy Suggestions and Comments” to see this new feature.
- Buprenorphine Pilot Program: We are pleased to announce the prehospital buprenorphine pilot program went live on October 2. Escondido Fire Department and AMR (in the CSA 17) began screening opioid withdrawal and opioid use disorder patients using the COWS score.

Patients meeting criteria are enrolled in the pilot program. As part of the pilot, patients are encouraged to connect with Substance Use Navigators (SUN) within the emergency department, who will direct them to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT).

San Diego County Fire is currently training personnel in preparation for coming on board on February 1, 2024, They will have three units equipped participating in this program.

We anticipate additional agencies joining the pilot program in the future.

For any questions about this program, please contact Tyler Meick (tyler.meick@sdcounty.ce.gov)

- Health Officer Order for Annual Influenza Season: The annual influenza season is upon us. The health officer order is evergreen and in force through the designated influenza season (November 1-March 31). The influenza letter requires, among other things, that healthcare personnel (including EMS credentialed personnel) wear a mask in patient care areas if they choose to not be vaccinated for influenza. As a reminder, the "Jury Duty letter" has been discontinued, as any jury summons can be deferred for any reason anytime. You can view the health order here: [Health Officer Order \(HOO\) - Annual Influenza Season](#)
- Current Medication Shortages: County EMS is aware of multiple medication shortages and has issued guidance on albuterol and ketamine. We recommend auditing your inventory levels and communicating with your medication vendors on how they may be impacted. Additional information on these medication shortages, as well as mitigation strategies, can be found on our new Medication Shortages page here [Medication Shortages \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)
- Agency LEMSIS rosters need updating: All EMS agencies have the ability to electronically update their employee lists in LEMSIS. County staff have noticed that some agencies have done a better job adding new staff and have been less accurate with removing staff that have left the agency. Other agencies have not updated their roster in some time. County staffers rely on these LEMSIS rosters for finding the correct agency point of contact, QA reviews, arrest notifications, and a number of other responsibilities. ALS agencies are required to update their rosters under their MOAs, and permitted ambulance providers are required to update their rosters under County code.
- County EMS Office Holiday Closure Advisory: President's Day, February 19, 2024.

VI. SYSTEM POLICY REVIEW (Endorsement Vote)

There were no policies for review.

VII. REPORTS

- A. Base Hospital/Trauma Catchment Review – Andy Parr, EMS Administrator
The consultant's process is continuing. We anticipate a final draft will be forthcoming. It will be shared as soon as possible.
- B. Community Paramedicine – Tyler Meick, EMS Coordinator
 - The State responded on November 6 to the request for a Community Paramedicine program. In that response, there was a new request for information not specific to the Community Paramedicine program and the application is being placed on hold. It is currently being worked on and everything else with the application looks good.
 - In the meantime, work continues to improve future implementation, updating the Community Paramedicine website, and work on potential TAD sites.
 - AB 767, which extends the program authorization, passed in September.
 - The Community Paramedicine Advisory Council will continue to meet.

An SB 43 workgroup is coming together. If interested, please contact Caryn Sumek from the Hospital Association of San Diego and Imperial Counties (HASDIC).

ACTION: A request was made for a presentation from County Fire on the County Fire Rural Health Discharge Program using Nurse/ Paramedic Service Model.

- C. NEMSIS 3.5 Transition & CEMSIS Progress – Andy Parr, EMS Administrator
For LEMSIS Agencies – Pilot testing is ongoing with the SLEMSA agencies and it's going well. While not perfect yet, the LEMSIS is feeling very comfortable bringing on the balance of the NEMSIS Agencies on February 6th. A Training Slide Deck is being produced to ease the transition,

but early comments are favorable and field providers are commenting on only seeing minimal changes to the LEMSIS ePCR user interface.

For Water OnScene User Agencies – WATER is currently working on the first-round schema, and we are being told that early integration testing could occur as early as mid-February. Agencies looking for information and/or wishing to submit ePCR data to CEMSIS through the LEMSA using the *Bridge from Water* integration, can contact Brian Christison to receive updates.

Reminder: AB40 requires APOT Data that comes exclusively from CEMSIS.

Regarding the existing APOT Dashboard – The LEMSA has been posting monthly updates to the APOT dashboard for many months (years) with data provided through the First Watch interface. However, we have not been able to update APOT data since November due to a previously unknown glitch that was discovered with the name change from Alvarado to UCSD East. First Watch is working on it and the records updated as soon as possible.

- D. S-610 Transfer of Care Guidelines / AB-40 Update – Michael Assof, EMS Coordinator
The following PowerPoint was shared with the group: [AB-40 Overview & Implementation](#)
- E. Ambulance Ordinance Update: Goals and Process – Cody Rogers, EMS Coordinator
The following PowerPoint was shared with the group: [San Diego County Ambulance Ordinance \(10274\) Update](#)

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Recommendation from Disaster Subcommittee regarding CAL-AAMS Request for Membership

At the last EMCC Meeting, a recommendation was made by the Disaster Operations Subcommittee. They made the following motion: “*The Disaster Operations Subcommittee has respectfully declined the request of a seat from CAL-AAMS to become a full voting member on the EMCC at this time, but instead suggest that the request become part of the EMCC Prehospital/ Hospital Subcommittee as a technical representative. When the Bylaws are re-opened either for other business or on a routine basis, the Disaster Operations Subcommittee will reconsider their request for full membership.*”

The committee is being asked to reconsider the above recommendation.

A motion was made by Jonathan Jordan, seconded by Chara Cote to send the current recommendation to Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee for consideration as a technical representative. Motion carried.

- B. Seat Vacancies Update
Letters to the San Diego County Medical Society and to the Districts will go out soon. An update will be provided at the next EMCC meeting.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Elect Committee Chair and Vice Chair

A motion was made to re-elect Paul Forney as EMCC Chair and elect Lisha Wiese as EMCC Vice Chair. The motion carried by consensus.

X. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next EMCC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 22, 2024, 9:30 am at the County Administration Center, BOS Room 302. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.