



County of San Diego

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
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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 Zoom

Minutes

Thursday, October 22, 2020

Members Present

Abbott, Stephen – District 5
Adler, Fred – District 3
Blacksberg, David – HASDIC
Carlson, Sharon – HASDIC (Alt)
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
Molloy, Bernie – SD County Fire Districts' Association
Parra, Frank – SD County Fire Chiefs' Association
Pearson, Danielle – County Paramedic Agencies Committee (Alt)
Rosenberg, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses' Association
Scott, M.D., Christopher – SD County Medical Society

In Attendance

Baudoin, Madeleine – AMR
Bey, Christian – UCSD
Campbell, Mark – Oceanside FD
Caplan, Gregg – Ambu Inc
Chandler, Craig – Stryker
Duffy, Jennifer – SMFD
Forney, Paul – AMR
Lord, Scott – Mercy Air
Meick, Tyler – REACH Air
Ridgway, Sacha – Alvarado Hospital
Ruiz, Sal – CSA-17 EMS Coordinator
Seabloom, Lynn – Oceanside FD
Sloan, Christian – Mercy Air/UCSD
Sullivan, Don – AMR
Sumek, Caryn – HASDIC

Not in Attendance

District 1
Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators
Law Enforcement Agencies
Military Agencies
SD County Ambulance Association
SD County Paramedic Association

County Staff

Cavanaugh, Adria
Christison, Brian
Choe, Grace
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)
Koenig, M.D., Kristi
Pacheco, R.N., Cheryl
Parr, Andy
Pitner, Jaime
Smith, PhD, Josh
Tuteur, M.D., Jennifer
Hrubvocak, Wendy

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

Frank Parr, EMCC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:31 am. Due to the meeting being held virtually, the group skipped the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions. No announcements were made. Attendance was captured online via the chat box.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ PETITIONS

There were no public comments or petitions submitted.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by David Blacksberg, seconded by Brian Covell to approve the September 24, 2020 minutes. They were approved by consensus.

IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee

Met and will follow up with subcommittee work.

B. Education/Research Subcommittee

Did not meet.

C. Disaster Planning Subcommittee

Did not meet. The San Diego Health Care Disaster Coalition met. Healthcare entities and other entities in the coalition are planning for potential civil unrest from election season. Putting planning committees together taking place now through the inauguration.

V. COUNTY REPORT (Reports)

A. Clinical Report – Kristi Koenig, MD

i. The EMS Medical Director provided a comprehensive update on COVID-19.

B. MOC Report.

No report.

C. Administrative Report – Brian Christison

1. Flu – The flu season is upon us. The Public Health Officer Flu Order effective November 1 – March 31, which requires all healthcare personnel wear a mask in patient care areas if they choose to not be vaccinated for the flu.
2. County looking for assistance to support Public Health with flu and COVID-19 testing and vaccinations.
3. Policies and Protocols – The 2019-2020 protocol review process was well underway in when the COVID-19 pandemic upended the process. County EMS has restarted the remaining reviews, with an anticipated July 1, 2021 implementation date.
4. Capacity Plan – The All-Hazard Health Service Capacity Management Plan is currently at a Level 1 Full Activation. EMS Epidemiologists are carefully monitoring the Healthcare and EMS system metrics. The current Plan Level is prominently posted on the EMS Section's webpage at SanDiegoCountyEMS.com.
5. The Health Services Capacity Task Force held their annual meeting on Tuesday, September 27. All task force members, especially those on the Operational Core Group, are heartily thanked for their continuing attendance and cooperation.

6. County EMS Duty Officer has a new phone number for notifications. The new EMS Duty Officer phone number is: 619-588-0397.
In September 2020, the EMS Duty Officer received 14 calls.
 - 10 calls were regarding offload delays
 - Multiple patient incidents, hospital Internal Disaster, and hospital communications problems accounted for 4 calls
7. Non-operational County owned EMS radios to come home.
8. Actions during COVID:
 - Call for EMT and Paramedic temporary County employees. Hiring is well underway to support the pods and testing sites.
 - On October 14, received EMSA approval for adding oropharyngeal swab samples to COVID-19 testing Local Optional Scope of Practice. That site was added to collect samples from younger patients. If have staff involved in COVID-19 testing and would like a copy of the approval letter, can contact Brian Christison.

D. EOC Report – Andy Parr

1. Participating in the winter desert season planning with Imperial County EMS and responding agencies across the cross-county desert region. This dialogue and coordination is important between our LEMSAs.
2. Paramedics need to be reminded that when they make a statement, such as a belief that there has been “an outbreak,” it is a HIPAA violation and can impact their licensure negatively, including revocation. COVID-19 is upon us, it is in our community, and all EMS providers must respect patient privacy, just like any other medical condition.

VI. SYSTEM POLICY REVIEW (EMCC Advisory Position)

- A. Ad hoc Committees
 - i. P-801: Ad hoc Committee Status Report (Dr. Chris Kahn)
Progress was made prior to COVID-19. Will meet on 11/5/20 and will send recent edits to the Ad hoc group. Will bring back to EMCC for review in November. If anyone else is interested in joining the committee, can contact Dr. Kahn, cc Nicole del Toro.
 - ii. S-010: Ad hoc Committee Status Report (Dr. Chris Scott)
Was previously approved, but Trauma suggested looking at the language. Therefore, will review again at the next Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting; then will be brought back EMCC for approval.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discuss reconvening Education/Research Subcommittee Meeting. Since the Community Paramedicine Pilot Program was reactivated, the Education/Research Subcommittee will be reconvened, as required in the pilot study approval. County EMS will reach out to the Chairman and get the committee members together.
- B. Establishment of an Out of District Transport Fee associated with County Service Area EMS Districts
The County operates two large ambulance districts (CSA-17 and CSA-69). The fee structure has been adjusted from time to time by the Board of Supervisors. With an increase of mutual aid/boundary drop, CSA ambulances are responding outside of the CSA districts more frequently. It was discovered, on occasion, a fee would be applied that was associated with a non-resident inside the district, even though the ambulance

was outside the district. Like all fee changes, this item will be taken to the Board of Supervisors for approval. County EMS is looking for support from EMCC for this change.

A motion was made by Stephen Abbott, seconded by Frank Parra. Motion carried.

C. Emergency Medical Care Committee – Sunset Review

A sunset evaluation occurs on a scheduled basis, every four (4) years, to determine effectiveness of the committee and the need for its continued existence. It is recommended that the Advisory Committee take action to reauthorize for another four (4) years. County EMS has prepared the documents and will bring them to the November meeting.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Alvarado Hospital Medical Center: Request to become a Base Station Hospital
County EMS epidemiology staff reviewed an array of information from the hospital's proposal and other EMS data; County EMS opined with a presentation back to Alvarado that the LEMSA concluded that an addition of a new Base Station Hospital was not needed at this time.

B. P-701 Policy Review

There was discussion to review the base hospital system as it currently stands. Some committee members presented their thoughts on how the Base Hospital system could be enhanced through several methods, and how to best review the existing system with an eye for future needs.

A request was made if County EMS staff could look into the varied Base Hospital models in California.

ACTION:

- 1) Will keep this item on the agenda for forum discussion in January.
- 2) County EMS agreed to do a survey and look at it comprehensively by the January meeting. County EMS will produce what they can by the November meeting.

IX. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday on the fourth Thursday of November, the next EMCC meeting is planned to be held virtually and is scheduled for the third Thursday, November 19, 2020.

Meeting adjourned at 10:54 AM.