



# County of San Diego

**JEFF COLLINS**  
DIRECTOR  
San Diego County Fire  
(619) 339-0283

**PUBLIC SAFETY GROUP**  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OFFICE  
5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 400, San Diego, CA 92123-1204  
[www.SanDiegoCountyEMS.com](http://www.SanDiegoCountyEMS.com)

**ANDREW (ANDY) PARR**  
EMS ADMINISTRATOR  
Deputy Director, Departmental Operations  
(619) 285-6429

## **EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE (EMCC) MEETING**

Paul Forney, Chair/ Dr. Chris Scott, Vice Chair  
c/o SD County Emergency Medical Services Office  
5560 Overland Ave, Rm 172, San Diego 92123

### Minutes

**Thursday, October 26, 2023**

#### Members Present

Bojanowski, R.N., Michael – American Red Cross  
Chote, R.N., Chara – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators’  
Forney, Paul – SD County Ambulance Association  
Froelich, Dan – County Paramedic Agencies Committee  
Graydon, R.N., Cheryl – Emergency Nurses’ Association  
Jordan, Jonathan – SD County Fire Districts’ Association  
Kahn, M.D., Christopher – District 4  
Muns, Harry – SD County Fire Chiefs’ Association  
Sloane, M.D., Christian – District 5  
Scott, M.D., Christopher – SD County Medical Society  
Walters, Sean – SD County Paramedic Association (Alt)  
Wiese, Lisha – Hospital Association of SD/Imperial Counties

#### In Attendance

Cochran, Jennifer – Santee/Lakeside Fire  
Hughes, Sarah – RCCP  
Jackson, Ennis – RCCP  
Levine, Saul – Sharp Memorial  
Quinlan, Ron – SMFD  
Vithalani, Veer – Palomar Health

#### Not in Attendance

District 1  
District 2  
District 3  
District 5  
Military Agencies

#### County Staff

Assof, Michael  
Christison, Brian  
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)  
Haidari, Tareq  
Meick, Tyler  
Parr, Andy  
Regier, Marc  
Rogers, Cody  
Trousdale, Brad

---

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

- A. Paul Forney, EMCC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:31 AM. A quorum was declared.
- B. The group recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. There were no introductions or announcements.

---

### **II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ PETITIONS**

There were not public comments or petitions.

---

### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A motion was made by Dr. Chris Scott, seconded by Sean Walters to approve the September 28, 2023 EMCC minutes. Motion carried.**

---

#### IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

---

**A. Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee – Chara Cote, RN**

- Discussed Policies S-836 and S-8XX, which were approved to move to the full EMCC.
- Discussed Policy P-305; some concerns with the language.
- Received an update on Policy P-882.

**B. Education and Research Subcommittee – Cheryl Graydon, RN**

Did not meet.

**C. Disaster Planning Subcommittee – Lisha Wiese**

- UCSD burn surge training.
  - Pediatric surge training, exercises, and tabletops.
  - Trauma burn and possible chemical exercises.
- 

#### V. COUNTY REPORT

---

**A. Administrative Report – Andy Parr, EMS Administrator**

- 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 BSPC in early 2024.

- EMC 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 \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)

- 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.

- Buprenorphine Pilot Program:

The County EMS Office continues to make progress in launching the Prehospital Buprenorphine Pilot Program. As part of this program, a limited number of pilot agencies will participate by administering prehospital Buprenorphine to opioid use disorder and opioid withdrawal patients. Pilot agencies will also connect these patients with MAT treatment via a substance use navigator (or SUN).

The County EMS Office is also pleased to announce that AMR (in the CSA-17), Escondido Fire, and San Diego County Fire will be among the first agencies to participate in the pilot program. We are working to finalize training schedules and will be launching these programs in the near future.

- County EMS Fees and the next Fiscal Year:

The EMS Office is currently working closely with the County's Emergency Services Administration Unit to review LEMSA fees. The fees being reviewed are personnel fees, specialty care fees and EMS permit fees. More information will be forthcoming as the analysis and calculations take shape. If you have questions or comments, please send those comments to [EMSNotifications@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:EMSNotifications@sdcounty.ca.gov).

- 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 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.

- Health Officer Order for Mandatory Influenza Vaccination or Masking of Healthcare Personnel during 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](#)

- 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 \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)

- 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 \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)

- County EMS Office Holiday Closure Advisory:

- Veterans Day, Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>
- Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Day after Thanksgiving, Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>
- Christmas Day, Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

- New Years Day, Monday January 1st, 2024

---

## VI. SYSTEM POLICY REVIEW (Endorsement Vote)

---

- A. S-836: Critical Care Transport Unit Inventory

**A motion was made by Dr. Christopher Scott, seconded by Dr. Christopher Kahn to endorse Policy S-836. Motion carried.**

- B. P-8XX: First Responder Inventory

**A motion was made by Dan Froelich, seconded by Dr. Christopher Scott to endorse Policy P-8XX. Motion carried.**

---

## VII. REPORTS

---

- A. Base Hospital/Trauma Catchment Review

An update was provided on this project's progress. Please see the County EMS website for up-to-date information.

- B. Community Paramedicine

The County EMS Office submitted the application packet to EMSA on September 15. On October 15, EMSA requested additional information. The updated application was resubmitted on October 20 and are awaiting on EMSA response. In the meantime, will continue to make progress in the framework for these models. San Diego Fire Rescue was the first department that applied to participate in the Case Management High Utilizer option. Additional information can be found on the Community Paramedicine page on the EMS website.

- C. Update on County EMS QA/QI Process

A QA/QI Process presentation was shared at the last EMCC meeting. In follow up to the discussion, a 13-question survey was created and sent out to this committee as well as to other multiple external stakeholders. This survey will remain open until November 30 for feedback. The goal with the feedback is to identify areas of improvement and make those changes. These findings will also complement the Base Station Consultant Report.

---

## VIII. OLD BUSINESS

---

- A. Report from Disaster Subcommittee on CAL-AAMS Membership Request on EMCC

The Disaster Subcommittee met, had a discussion, and gained some consensus on the Cal-AAMS membership request to a seat on the EMCC.

**ACTION: Disaster Subcommittee Chair Lisha Wiese will report out at the next EMCC meeting.**

---

## IX. NEW BUSINESS

---

No new business.

---

## X. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

---

The next EMCC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 9:30 am (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday instead of 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday due to the Thanksgiving Holiday) in person at the County Operations Center – 5560 Overland Ave, Room 171. Meeting adjourned at 10:04 am.