



County of San Diego

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PUBLIC SAFETY GROUP
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EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE (EMCC) MEETING

Frank Parra, Chair/ Brian Covell, R.N., Vice-Chair
c/o Emergency Medical Services
Virtual meeting via Zoom

Minutes

Thursday, October 28, 2021

Members Present

Chote, R.N., Chara – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators
Covell, R.N., Brian – District 2
Froelich, Dan – County Paramedic Agencies' Committee
George, Sgt, Richard – Law Enforcement Agencies
Graydon, R.N., Cheryl – Emergency Nurses' Association
Imroth, Monique – Hospital Association of SD/Imperial
Kahn, M.D., Christopher – District 4
Lyons, R.N., Laura – American Red Cross
Ma, M.D., Gene – District 3
McJannet, R.N., Catherine – District 1
Molloy, Bernard – SD County Fire Districts' Association
Parra, Frank – SD County Fire Chiefs' Association
Rosenberg, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses' Association
Scott, M.D., Christopher – SD County Medical Society
Sloan, M.D., Christian – District 5
Uppenkamp, R.N., Tina – American Red Cross (Alt)
Wiese, Lisha – Hospital Association of SD/Imperial (Alt)
Wray, Lt., Shawn – Law Enforcement Agencies (Alt)

In Attendance

Baudoin, Madeleine – AMR
Beckert, Mark – Carlsbad Fire
Carlson, R.N., Sharon – HASDIC
Chandler, Craig – Stryker
Donofrio-Odmann, Joelle – RCHSD/SDFD
Duffy, Jennifer – SMFD
Farcas, M.D., Andra – UCSD EMS Fellow
Francis, Allen – CDCR/CCHCS
Garibay, Albert – Barona Fire
Lopez, Brent – REACH Air
Lord, Scott – Mercy Air
Maienschein, Elly – Sharp Healthcare
Meick, Tyler – Reach Air
Mercer, Kevin – AMR
Murphy, Mary – North County FPD
Parker, Seth – CARE Ambulance
Pearson, Danielle – Chula Vista FD
Schadegg, Rochelle – Scripps Mercy SD
Seabloom, Lynn – Oceanside FD
Stauffer, Kim – SDFD
Sumek, Caryn – HASDIC

Not in Attendance

Military Agencies
SD County Ambulance Association
SD County Paramedic Association

County Staff

Abedin, Sanaa
Cavanaugh, Adria
Christison, Brian
Collins, Jeff
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)
Hrubovcak, Wendy
Koenig, M.D., Kristi
Martin, Adilver
McDonald, M.D., Eric
Pacheco, R.N., Cheryl
Parr, Andy

Pitner, Jaime
Rogers, Cody
Schoenheit, R.N., Candy
Smith, PhD, Josh
Stepanski, Barbara
Tuteur, M.D., Jennifer

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

- A. Frank Parra, EMCC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.
- B. The group skipped the Pledge of Allegiance as the meeting was virtual.
- C. In lieu of introductions, attendance was captured online.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ PETITIONS

No public comments or petitions.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Chris Kahn, seconded by Cathy McJannet to approve the September 23, 2021 minutes. Motion carried.

IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee – Brian Covell, RN

The group met and discussed the following policies: P-405 Communication Failure and Policy S-480 Viral Specimen Collection and Vaccination Administration. Policy P-405 is on hold for now; Policy S-480 has moved forward to the full EMCC and is on today's agenda.

B. Education and Research Subcommittee – Cheryl Graydon, RN

The group did not meet. Will meet on November 4, following the EMCC Prehospital/Hospital subcommittee meeting.

C. Disaster Planning Subcommittee – Sharon Carlson, RN

The group did not meet. Sharon Carlson's term has expired. Lisha Wiese, Emergency Manager for the Palomar Health District, has been appointed as the new Chair for the Disaster Planning Subcommittee and as HASDIC's primary representative to the EMCC; Monique Imroth, Director of Emergency Management Business Continuity and Telecom Operator Services for UCC San Diego Health, has been appointed as the alternate representative.

V. COUNTY REPORTS

A. Clinical Report – Kristi Koenig, MD, EMS Medical Director

Situational Awareness/Emerging discussions from our Clinical Advisory groups:

- The Stroke Consortium is discussing LVO stroke patients; evaluating whether the data supports an LVO stroke assessment in the field.
- The Cardiac Advisory Committee is in the early stages discussing if a subgroup of EMS cardiac arrest patients would benefit from transfer directly to ECMO-capable centers.

- i. COVID-19 Update

Dr. Koenig provided an update of the most recent information on the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by a question-and-answer session.

EMSA Medical Director Dr. Duncan has announced his retirement as of November 12, 2021.

Flu season is imminent. Everyone is advised to get their flu and COVID vaccine, as well as the booster shot, if eligible.

Dr. Jennifer Tuteur thanked EMCC Chair, Fire Chief Frank Parra for participating in the [COVID-19 Treatment Success Story](#) video from the County News Center. She announced that the post exposure prophylaxis (an option for COVID prevention that is safe and effective at reducing infection) is now available and provided the County's [monoclonal antibody treatment webpage](#). The Clairemont site is providing the post exposure prophylaxis: 619-685-2500 x4. Everyone is reminded that the COVID vaccine is the best prevention.

B. Administrative Report – Andy Parr, EMS Administrator

1. County EMS transition to Public Safety Group: The transition from HHSA to PSG (County Fire) is organizationally complete but there is still more work to be done with budget coordination, program alignment and assimilation, and policy modification and development. We are co-located with County Fire at the County Operations Center.
3. Flu: The Flu Season is upon us. The “PHO Flu Order” is evergreen and is in force through the designated influenza season (November 1 – March 31). The flu 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 the flu. As a reminder, the “Jury Duty letter” has been discontinued, as any jury summons can be deferred for any reason anytime.
4. Assess and Refer/P-801 options available: In response to the latest COVID surge, P-801 response modification and Assess and Refer options have been re-activated. If you would like to exercise either of these options, please review the technical memorandums and EMS notification requirements at www.SanDiegoCountyEMS.com send your requests.
5. Procurements: County EMS encourages interested parties to register at the County's BuyNet webportal to receive procurement information as it is released. There are instructions posted on our website. Upcoming procurements include:
 - RFP for Evaluation of Base Station System and Trauma Catchment area designation (anticipated release is prior to the end of the calendar year)
 - RFP for Paramedic Ambulance Services for CSA 17 (anticipated release early 2021)
6. New Ambulance Diversion Policy in effect: The updated Ambulance Diversion policy (S-010) took effect on July 1. Ambulance Diversion may be instituted for up to four hours. Any request to extend diversion past four hours requires the County EMS Duty Officer to approve. The County EMS Duty Officer may also place an ED on diversion if indicated or remove any and all EDs when necessary – primarily for long offload delays or other signs that an ED is saturated to the point the EMS system is affected. The prior practice of routinely accepting incoming patients while on ED Diversion is no longer appropriate. When an ED is on Diversion, patients requesting the specific facility requires the Base Hospital to agree that accepting a particular patient is in the best interests of that patient - this is a much higher bar than in the concluded ED Bypass policy.
7. Capacity Plan: The All-Hazard Health Service Capacity Management Plan is currently at a Level 2 Escalated Activation. EMS Epidemiologists have continued the

continuous system monitoring that has proven critical throughout the pandemic response. The current Plan Level is prominently posted on the County EMS webpage at SanDiegoCountyEMS.com.

8. **LEMSIS Updates:** The County EMS Elite schematron and data dictionary have been finalized and distributed to specific third-party PCR vendors. LEMSA staff have been working closely with some of the larger 3rd party vendors to enable this data integration as soon as possible, hopefully before the end of the calendar year. EMS agencies may bypass the process of third-party integration by joining LEMSA and the no-cost Elite PCR.
9. **Transfer of Care:** Please remember that the FirstWatch Transfer of Care button should only be pushed when the patient has been transferred from the EMS agency to hospital personnel. The button should not be pushed when the ambulance arrives at the hospital, which has been reported recently.
10. **Base Hospital Assignment Update:** The Base Hospital Assignments are due for a refresh. County EMS is finalizing a form that will go to each EMS Coordinator. We plan to finalize these updated assignments before Thanksgiving, so we thank agencies in advance for a quick turnaround.
 - i. **EMS Data Presentation – Brian Christison on behalf of Josh Smith, PhD**
A PowerPoint presentation [County of San Diego EMS System Core Quality Measures - 2020](#) was shared with the group.
 - ii. **EMCC Membership – Andy Parr, EMS Administrator**
Membership appointments are now processed much more quickly. Nicole del Toro is the contact person. Action is needed on seats 7 & 8 from the Law Enforcement Agencies and seats 22 & 23 from the San Diego County Paramedic Association.
 - iii. **Recent Board Action – Andy Parr, EMS Administrator**
The Board of Supervisors had a few successful EMS items come before them:
 - 10/5 was another step in the dissolution of CSA-69 and has gone to LAFCO for their study and possible approval.
 - 10/19 was the Spare Wheel Exemption
 - 10/19 and (11/2 Second Reading) there was a housekeeping item to administratively move the EMS fee schedule from HNSA to PSG.
 - 11/2 County Fire Protection District was requested by the Board of Supervisors to research the feasibility for future of EMS delivery options, including AB1544 elements. The LEMSA's AB 1544 work will be an element of that report.

VI. SYSTEM POLICY REVIEW (EMCC Advisory Position) – Jaime Pitner

A. **S-480: Viral Specimen Collection and Vaccination Administration**

This draft policy will authorize the addition of viral specimen collection and vaccination delivery. A protocol, once this scope authorization is adopted, will be reviewed by the Base Station Physician Committee. County staff are engaged with EMSA and Public Health to potentially modify the Local Optional Scope of Practice approval to include additional forms of swab samples, as well as including vaccinations for those under 12 years old.

A motion was made by Cathy McJannet, seconded by Bernie Molloy to approve Policy S-480. Motion carried.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. **Base Hospital/Trauma Catchment Review (Andy Parr, EMS Administrator)**

Coming early next year and will be looking for a consultant to perform some of the elements of the review.

B. **AB 1544: Community Paramedicine or Triage to Alternate Destination Act (Bernie Molloy, Fire Chief)**

The AB1544 Advisory Group has completed their meetings on reviewing the proposed policy through EMSA. EMSA submitted the regulatory packet on September 9 to the California Health and Human Services for their review and approval. Then it will move on to the Office of Administrative Law and was to begin the 45-day public comment process in early October, however this process has not begun yet. Depending on the comments, there could be up to two additional 45-day comment periods. EMSA is hoping to present the full regulation to the EMS Commission during the March 2022 meeting. EMSA pulled out a streamlined version of the Triage to Alternative Destination regulations and submitted to the EMS Commission meeting in September for approval, however that morning it was pulled off of the agenda. Anticipate it will come back at the next EMS Commission Meeting.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Brown Act requirements for Teleconferencing Meetings – AB 361: A Resolution Authorizing Teleconferenced Public Meetings Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953

The Executive Committee is required to meet on a monthly basis to authorize the continuation of virtual meetings via Zoom. The Executive Committee will meet in December to pass a resolution.

A motion was made by Dr. Christian Sloan, seconded by Bernie Molloy to continue with virtual meetings via zoom for the remainder of the year and reassess in early 2022. Motion carried.

A resolution authorizing the continuation of virtual meetings for the subcommittees will also be discussed at the next subcommittee meetings on Thursday, November 4, 2021.

- Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee @ 9:00am
- Education and Research Subcommittee @ 10:30am

IX. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next EMCC meeting is scheduled on Thursday, November 18, 2021, at 9:30 am (3rd Thursday instead) due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, via Zoom. Meeting adjourned at 10:43 AM.