



County of San Diego

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE (EMCC) MEETING

Paul Forney, Chair/ Lisha Wiese, 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, February 22, 2024**

Members Present

Cote, R.N., Chara – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators
Forney, Paul – SD County Ambulance Association
Graydon, R.N., Cheryl – Emergency Nurses' Association
Jordan, Jonathan – SD County Fire Districts' Association
Kahn, M.D., Christopher – District 4
Maxwell, Paul – SD County Paramedic Association
Muns, Harry – SD County Fire Chiefs' Association
Murphy, Mary – County Paramedic Agencies Committee (Alt)
Sloane, M.D., Christian – District 5
Wiese, Lisha – Hospital Association of SD/Imperial Counties

In Attendance

Berend, Ben – CVFD
Clyons, Jeff – SDFRD
Domingo, Kaila – RHDP
Dull, Amy – RHDP
Johnson, Nick – CalFire
Rihan, B – Heartland Fire
Sullivan, Don – AMR
Vithalani, Veer – Palomar Health
Urbanavage, Claudinne – RHDP

Not in Attendance

District 1
District 2
District 3
American Red Cross
Law Enforcement Agencies
Military Agencies
SD County Medical Society

County Staff

Assof, Michael
Collins, Jeff
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)
Duncan, MD, Dave
Jagielinski, Jakub
Marugg, Jim
Meick, Tyler
Parr, Andy
Regier, Marc
Trousdale, Brad

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

- A. Paul Forney, EMCC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM. A quorum was declared.
- B. The group recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. There were no introductions.
- D. There were no announcements.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ PETITIONS

There were no public comments or petitions.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Harry Muns, seconded by Jonathan Jordan to approve the January 25, 2024 EMCC minutes. Motion carried.

IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

A. County Fire Rural Health Discharge Program Presentation using Nurse/Paramedic Service Model

The following PowerPoint presentation was shared with the group: [Rural Health Discharge Program \(RHDP\) Overview](#)

V. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee – Chara Cote, RN

The group met and discussed several policies and considered the public comments. Everything was moved forward to the full EMCC, except for Policy S-610.

B. Education and Research Subcommittee – Cheryl Graydon, RN

Did not meet.

C. Disaster Planning Subcommittee – Lisha Wiese

- A lot is planned for the hospitals this year on disaster drills and trainings.
- Focusing on pediatric surge and chemical events and how it would affect hospitals.

VI. 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.

The consultant’s initial findings and recommendations were presented at 5 in-person sessions November 7-9. The presentation is also available for viewing on the County Engagement page.

Additional information and timelines are posted on the County EMS webpage.

- 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 \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)
- Transfer of Care Dashboard Updated: The County EMS Transfer of Care dashboard, which many of our community members refer to regularly, was not updated during December and January. FirstWatch, as the repository and aggregator of the PCR signature timestamp, supplies the data we use for the TOC dashboard. The Alvarado Hospital name change caused a recoverable error in the FirstWatch records. On February 7, the First Watch technical team restored the data flow, and the County EMS Transfer of Care dashboard was immediately updated.
- 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.

EMS Mobile App: <https://emsmobile.sandiegocounty.gov/>

- NEMSIS version 3.5 transition update

The San Diego County EMS Office is pleased to announce the upcoming LEMSIS Elite transition to the NEMSIS 3.5 standard. This work, completed with the assistance of multiple stakeholders, is nearing completion. In addition to making necessary updates to the data collection and processing system, County EMS has worked with external platforms, including billing companies and FirstWatch, to ensure a seamless transition for LEMSIS users.

LEMSIS users should be aware of the following:

- On January 22, 2024, the Santee-Lakeside EMS Agency successfully piloted the LEMSIS 3.5 data standard.
 - On February 6, 2024, all other LEMSIS agencies will transition to the NEMSIS 3.5-based ePCR form.
 - Base hospital MICNs should continue to use the 3.5 BHR when taking radio calls from Santee-Lakeside units. On February 6, the NEMSIS 3.4-compliant BHR will be deactivated, and the 3.5 version will be the form of record.
 - Field users will notice minor changes in the ePCR form. These changes are primarily related to the EMS call disposition. Field provider education is posted on the County EMS website and should be distributed to field providers.
 - Agency administrators and other administrative staff will note changes to configured Internal Views and reports related to data field changes from NEMSIS 3.4 to the 3.5 standard. Additional details will be provided and posted on the County EMS website.
 - County EMS appreciates the assistance and advice provided by our LEMSIS users in this important work. Please contact the EMS Office with questions via EMSNotifications@sdcounty.ca.gov
- 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, and County Fire will have three units equipped and 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)

VII. SYSTEM POLICY REVIEW (Endorsement Vote)

A. P-305: Paramedic Accreditation/Reaccreditation

A motion was made by Mary Murphy, seconded by Dr. Christian Sloane to endorse Policy P-305. Motion carried.

B. P-405: Communications Failure

A motion was made by Chara Cote, seconded by Cheryl Graydon to endorse Policy P-405. Motion carried.

C. P-405A: Communications Failure Form

A motion was made by Chara Cote, seconded by Cheryl Graydon to endorse Policy P-405. Motion carried.

D. P-430: Special Assignment – Fireline Paramedic

A motion was made by Dr. Chris Kahn, seconded by Harry Muns to endorse Policy P-430. Motion carried.

E. S-610: Transfer of Care Guidelines

This policy has gone through the public comment process several times, and it seems that there is significant controversy.

The landscape regarding transfer of care has changed dramatically since the State legislature passed Assembly Bill 40.

EMS Staff needs to reconsider the LEMSA's policy on Transfer of Care comprehensively and will need additional time to do this work.

ACTION: Policy S-610 is being pulled from today's agenda for further consideration.

F. S-882: Emergency Medical Dispatch Programs

A motion was made by Dr. Christian Sloane, seconded by Harry Muns to endorse Policy S-882. Motion carried.

G. S-882A: Emergency Medical Dispatch Plan Template

A motion was made by Dr. Christian Sloane, seconded by Harry Muns to endorse Policy S-882A. Motion carried.

VIII.REPORTS

A. Base Hospital/Trauma Catchment Review – Andy Parr, EMS Administrator
An update was provided earlier in the County Report.

B. Community Paramedicine – Tyler Meick, EMS Coordinator

- The Community Paramedicine program and the application is placed on hold due to CEMSIS data. The County is not currently compliant with CEMSIS data being submitted to the State.
- In the meantime, work continues to improve future implementation and updating the Community Paramedicine website.
- The Community Paramedicine Advisory Council is also on hold, but will be provided with monthly updates, so they will be prepared to reassemble once the application is approved.
- Continue to look into TAD locations; currently investigating CSU facilities in the County.
- AB 767 passed this year which extends the period for CP. It allows for a new post discharge follow-up program.

- Monitoring SB 975, which potentially provides for some reimbursement programs for Community Paramedicine.
- C. Ambulance Ordinance Update: Goals and Process – Andy Parr, EMS Administrator
Going to County Counsel then to the Executive Office. In progress. Hope to go to the Board of Supervisors later this year or early 2025.
- D. NEMSIS 3.5 Transition & CEMSIS Progress – Andy Parr, EMS Administrator
Bridge from Water continues to be a work in progress. A better update will be given at the next meeting.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

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

A motion was made by Paul Maxwell, seconded by Cheryl Graydon, to endorse CAL-AAMS as a technical representative on the EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee. Motion carried.

- B. Seat Vacancies Update

County EMS has reached out to the elected official seats; have not heard back.

Regarding the other seats, it is up to the agencies to keep track of their representatives' terms. A nomination letter and an application are needed for new membership.

X. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

XI. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next EMCC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 28, 2024, 9:30 am at the County Administration Center, BOS Room 302. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.