



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
Zoom Meeting

Minutes

Thursday, February 24, 2022

Members Present

Cote, 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
Imroth, Monique – Hospital Association of SD/Imperial Counties (Alt)
Kahn, M.D., Christopher – District 4
Ma, M.D., Gene – District 3
Parra, Frank – SD County Fire Chiefs' Association
Rosenberg, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses' Association (Alt)
Sloan, M.D., Christian – District 5
Uppenkamp, R.N., Tina – American Red Cross (Alt)

In Attendance

Beckert, Mark – Carlsbad Fire
Behm, Jeff – Falck
Chandler, Craig – Stryker
Clyons, Jeff - SDFRD
Dotson, R.N., Melody – AMR
Garibay, Albert – Barona Fire
Larimore, Paul – Grossmont
Lee, Paulyne – UCSD EM Residency
Lopez, Brent – Reach Air Medical
Mehrer, Tim – Chula Vista FD
Mercer, Kevin – AMR
Murphy, Mary – North County FPD
Parker, Seth – CARE Ambulance
Pearson, Danielle – Chula Vista FD
Ruiz, Sal – CSA 17 EMS Coordinator
Schadegg, Rochelle – Scripps Mercy SD
Stauffer, Kim – SDFRD
Sullivan, Don – AMR
Sumek, Caryn – HASDIC
Zimmerman, Stephanie – Mercy Air

Not in Attendance

District 1
District 2
Law Enforcement Agencies
Military Agencies
SD County Fire Districts' Association
SD County Medical Society
SD County Paramedic Association

County Staff

Abedin, Sanaa
Cavanaugh, Adria
Christison, Brian
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)
Erickson, Kirk
Gall, Jessica
Koenig, M.D., Kristi
Martin, Adilver
McDonald, M.D., Eric
Parr, Andy
Pitner, Jaime
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 9:32 AM.
- B. The group skipped the Pledge of Allegiance as the meeting was held virtually.
- C. In lieu of introductions, attendance was captured online.
- D. There were no announcements made.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ PETITIONS

There were no public comments or petitions.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dan Froelich, seconded by Dr. Christian Sloane to approve the January 27, 2022 minutes. Motion carried.

IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee – Chara Cote, RN

The group met. Discussion on Policy S-010, including prehospital and hospital experiences. Mostly in favor for the new changes of S-010. Also discussed the EMS fee schedule.

B. Education and Research Subcommittee – Cheryl Graydon, RN

The group did not meet.

C. Disaster Planning Subcommittee – Monique Imroth

Currently working on revising the region's burn surge plan to include both the County plan for response, and then UC San Diego Health's burn center plan. In addition, continue to work on pediatric surge readiness for COVID surge. Also, a subcommittee was established for the coalition that is looking specifically at cyber security in the health care sector.

V. COUNTY REPORTS

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

- 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.

B. Administrative Report – Brian Christison, EMS Coordinator

1. Blood shortage: San Diego County is experiencing a **severe** blood shortage. Please contact the San Diego Blood bank for times and locations. <https://www.sandiegobloodbank.org/>
2. EMSA waivers come to a close MARCH 31 2022!
In March 2020 EMSA, under the authority granted by Executive Order, implemented an array of waivers and alterations to standard EMS rules. These changes included:
 - Substituting simulations or other adjustments for clinical and internship contacts for EMT and paramedic students
 - Waiving the biannual EMT skills competency verification
 - Authorizing EMTs, AEMTs, and paramedics to practice their respective scope in stationary settings
 - Approval for Local Optional Scope of Practices for COVID-19 testing and vaccination administration

CoEMS expects that all emergency standards that were extended from September Will conclude on March 31, 2022, including for training courses that began prior to this date.

3. American College of Surgeons - Trauma Center Verification Surveys:

The triennial ACS verification visits for all 6 County Trauma Centers have been scheduled for this winter and spring. Two of our Trauma Centers have completed these visits and four more

are coming up in March and May. Each of the Trauma Centers will report on their own findings - but we'd like to let you know that County EMS Staff is assisting on these reviews and completes our County Trauma Center compliance surveys concurrently with the ACS reviews.

4. County Meetings are Still Virtual (for now): County EMS holds several community meetings each month. Up to 6 of these meetings are Brown Act meetings and require specific notification and recordation. The California State Legislature has passed a law (AB361) allowing partial relief from the public meeting requirements. This relief must be reaffirmed at each regular meeting held virtually. This relief ends at the Advisory Committee's discretion or until 2023 whichever comes first.
5. Capacity Plan: The All-Hazard Health Service Capacity Management Plan was lowered to a Level 2 Escalated Activation. The plan level was de-escalated on February 9 with the input of the Health Services Capacity Task Force's Operational Core Group. EMS Epidemiologists have continued the 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.
6. Flu: The Flu Season is still here and still impacting the community. 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.
7. Pandemic "Omicron" surge actions: To mitigate the Omicron pandemic surge, County EMS implemented a number of strategies. These include approving emergency response modifications for the City of San Diego, the San Diego County FPD areas and for the Central Zone fire agencies. The Assess and Refer authorization was expanded to include low mechanism extremity injuries and, with base hospital approval, other low acuity presentations to the existing low-risk COVID-19 patient category.
In addition, at the request of a number of fire agencies, ten additional ambulances were deployed on 1/22/2022 to augment 9-1-1 EMS transport capacity in all areas of San Diego County. These augmented deployments have come to an end as of 2/1/2022. County EMS thanks the many entities that supported this deployment.
8. Procurements: County EMS encourages interested parties to register with the County's BuyNet webportal to receive procurement information as soon 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 (upcoming)
 - RFP for Paramedic Ambulance Services for CSA 17 (Note: That due to unavoidable delays in the RFP approval process CoEMS, with the support of CoDPC, has extended the CSA-17 contract with AMR until July 1, 2022. However, CoEMS expects the CSA-17 RFP to be released in the first quarter of 2022.)
9. EMS Protocol Review for 2022: The EMS team is completing the final review of protocol revisions for 2022. Thanks to all those who submitted suggested revisions. The revised protocols are expected to be finalized by February and provided for education in April. Implementation of the revised protocols is scheduled for July 1, 2022.
10. Base Hospital / 911 Transport Unit Re-Assignment Update - ON HOLD: We thank all agencies for returning unit updates to us. Because of the current COVID surge, we are putting this update project on hold. We hope to have more information available in the next few months.
11. EMSA Paramedic Basic Scope of Practice Medication Expansion Underway: Four medications are in the process to be added to the state ALS formulary and will no longer require Local Optional Scope Approval. These medications are acetaminophen, ketamine, ketorolac and tranexamic acid (TXA). **Currently, acetaminophen and ketamine are approved for use in San Diego County.**
12. LEMSIS Updates: The County EMS Elite schematron and data dictionary have been distributed to specific third-party PCR vendors. LEMSA staff have been working closely with 3rd party vendors to prepare for this data integration. The integration pilot project is nearing completion, and the integration of other agencies will begin immediately after that project is finished. EMS Agencies may bypass the process of third-party integration by joining LEMSA and the no-cost Elite PCR.

- i. **EMS Data Presentation – Josh Smith, PhD**
Local data was shared with the group, which included COVID Data, EMS System Stress, and Hospital Data.
- ii. **EMCC Membership – Andy Parr, EMS Administrator**
Correspondence was sent to the Sheriff's Department and to the San Diego County Paramedic Association requesting them to update their memberships. Expired members continue to have voting rights until they are replaced. However, if their terms become expired, the process is more difficult to replace them.
- iii. **Recent Board Action – Adria Cavanaugh, Program Coordinator**
Upcoming board action will include the EMS Fee Package. It will be presented to the Board of Supervisors March 15, 2022 for the first reading and on April 5, 2022 for the second reading. A presentation on the fee changes will be shared at a future EMCC meeting.

VI. SYSTEM POLICY REVIEW (EMCC Advisory Position)

There were no policies for review.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

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

County EMS has completed their work on preparing the Base Hospital/Trauma Catchment Review Statement of Work. The Statement of Work has been sent to Purchasing and Contracting. Purchasing and Contracting will be preparing the packet for potential consultants to bid on the work to complete the Base Hospital/Trauma Catchment Review in the near term.

B. AB 1544: Community Paramedicine or Triage to Alternate Destination Act (Brian Christison)

First round of draft regulations was heard in mid-January with community comments; a second round of community comments opened about a week ago for a 15 day period. Anticipate either EMSA will submit that package for their approval process for finalization or potentially would go for another round of community input. All parties are recommended to go to the EMSA public comment page at https://emsa.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/71/2022/02/CP_Mod_Text.pdf to review the proposed text and/or submit comments.

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

This resolution allows the committee to continue having teleconference meetings for at least 30 more days.

A motion was made by Dan Froelich, seconded by Monique Imroth to approve AB 361 resolution. Motion carried.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Fire/EMS Fee Schedule Update (Andy Parr, EMS Administrator)

A PowerPoint presentation [San Diego County Fire Emergency Medical Services Office FY 2022-23 Fee Package](#) was shared with the group. The fees that are affected are personnel, agency, and hospital fees.

B. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next EMCC meeting is scheduled on Thursday, March 24, 2022, at 9:30 am via Zoom. Meeting adjourned at 10:19 AM.