



County of San Diego

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE (EMCC) MEETING

Frank Parra, Chair/ Vacant, Vice-Chair
c/o Emergency Medical Services
Zoom Meeting

Minutes

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Members Present

Cote, R.N., Chara – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators
Forney, Paul – SD County Ambulance Association
Graydon, R.N., Cheryl – Emergency Nurses' Association
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
Parra, Frank – SD County Fire Chiefs' Association
Rios, Matthew – Military Agencies
Rosenberg, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses' Association (Alt)
Scott, M.D., Christopher – SD County Medical Society
Wells, R.N., Christine – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators (Alt)
Wiese, Lisha – Hospital Association of SD & Imperial Counties
Wray, Lt. Shawn – Law Enforcement Agencies

In Attendance

Clyons, Jeff – SDFRD
Covell, Brian – Scripps Mercy SD
Garibay, Albert – Barona Fire
Jagielinski, Jakub – CAL FIRE
Lord, Scott – Mercy Air
Lopez, Lori –
Parker, Seth – CARE Ambulance
Ruiz, Sal – CSA 17
Saner, Dan – Falck
Schadegg, Rochelle – Scripps Mercy SD
Stauffer, Kim – SDFRD
Sullivan, Don – AMR
Sumek, Caryn – HASDIC

Not in Attendance

District 2
District 5
County Paramedic Agencies Committee
SD County Fire Districts' Association
SD County Paramedic Association

County Staff

Abedin, Sanaa
Bey, Christian
Christison, Brian
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)
Erickson, Kirk
Gall, Jessica
Koenig, M.D., Kristi
Martin, Adelver
Parr, Andy
Pitner, Jaime
Regier, Marc
Rogers, Cody
Smith, PhD, Josh
Tuteur, M.D., Jennifer

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

- A. Frank Parra, EMCC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:31 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 Cathy McJannet, seconded by Chara Cote to approve the February 24, 2022 EMCC minutes. Motion carried.

IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee – Chara Cote, RN

The group met. Continued to discuss diversion. Short discussion on how the data is collected via the existing TOC “button.” FirstWatch developing an import process to capture the receiving facility signature time for TOC. This process has a downside, as it may affect the ability to display a real time dashboard.

B. Education and Research Subcommittee – Cheryl Graydon, RN

The group met. Anne Jensen from San Diego Fire provided an update on their current project, which is going well. They are working with their current clients. Looking to see what comes of AB1544 as far as going forward. Anne also provided an overview of how the project originally started to give a historically perspective. Cyber Incident project is on hold as far as the data analysis and reporting. AB1544 public comment period closed. Waiting to see if an additional public comment period will open.

C. Disaster Planning Subcommittee – Lisha Wiese

Working on an After Action Report workgroup to start developing corrective action on COVID response; developing templates so everyone is on the same page from the hospital perspective on the AAR. Have a Pediatric Surge subcommittee that is meeting and developing forms and procedures. Looking at a Burn Surge Response Plan. Will have a summer exercise led by County folks at the Health Preparedness on July 21 about large scale earthquakes and the focus is on evacuation from the facilities. Training and response to earthquakes. Ventilator survey.

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.

Dr. Koenig also shared data on San Diego Wastewater Surveillance, COVID-19 Community Levels, COVID-19 Community Transmission, and Activity level of Emergency Department Influenza-Like Illness.

Dr. Jen Tuteur provided information about treatment, 619-285-2500. Evusheld (pre-exposure prevention) and Paxlovid (oral treatment). More information is also available at [this link](#).

B. Administrative Report – Andy Parr, EMS Administrator

1. EMSA waivers come to a close JUNE 30, 2022! (Date change, again)

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 these emergency standards will conclude on June 30, 2022, including for training courses that began prior to this date. Agencies with EMT staff are asked to help clarify the renewal needs as all LEMSAs return to prior practice. After June 30, renewing EMTs are required to provide 24 hours of EMS Continuing Education, a current BLS-level CPR card, and the completed skills competency verification form, as well as to submit the required fees.

2. 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. Four of our Trauma Centers will have completed these visits by the end of this month and two more are scheduled in 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 the County Trauma Center compliance surveys concurrently with the ACS reviews.
3. County EMS Personnel Fees mark year two of three incremental increases:
In the next few months an updated schedule of fees will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval. Among the fees being adjusted, EMS personnel fees will increase by \$20 again this year marching toward the CoSD Board Policy B-29 requirement for cost recovery for providing EMS credentialing services. The new recertification fee for EMT Certification, Paramedic Accreditation and MICN Authorization will be \$126 (currently \$106). Other EMS fees are being adjusted and those adjustments were presented at the February (2/24) EMCC Meeting.
4. Medication shortages: Pharmaceutical backorders continue to present challenges to our paramedic agencies. Epinephrine prefilled syringes and dextrose 50% are currently in shortage and several agencies have reached critical stock levels. Please see the EMS Medical Director’s memos posted to the County EMS webpage for guidance.
5. 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.
6. Capacity Plan: Capacity Plan: The All-Hazard Health Service Capacity Management Plan was lowered to a Level 3 Partial Activation. The plan level was de-escalated on March 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.
7. 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.
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 (posted yesterday, March 23)
 - 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. 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 has been completed and the integration of subsequent agencies has begun. If you are interested in starting the integration process, please contact your PCR vendor. EMS Agencies may bypass the process of third-party integration by joining LEMSIS and the no-cost Elite PCR.
10. San Diego County EMS Office Strategic Plan is underway. There is a consultant is on board. This initiative is aiming for a July 1, 2022 completion and there is a lot of work to be done. There will be upcoming stakeholder listening sessions and involvement.
11. Personnel Updates: New Assistant Director Marc Regier; Program Coordinator Adria Cavanaugh is leaving to Health and Human Services Agency.
 - 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. There have been personnel changes within the Sheriff's Department and look forward to their new appointments. County EMS has not heard back from the San Diego County Paramedic Association. Will work with District 1 and District 4 for their expired terms. Of note, Bernie Molloy has moved on; Andy Lawler is the alternate for the Fire Districts' Association representative.
 - iii. **Recent Board Action – Andy Parr, EMS Administrator**
The County EMS fees should be fully approved by the Board of Supervisors in April and will become effective July 1, 2022. There is also a Board Letter in process to authorize a county enterprise-wide credit card surcharge to cover the processing service's fees.

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 was sent to the CoDPC, and the Request for Proposal for this important work posted yesterday (March 23).

B. AB 1544: Community Paramedicine or Triage to Alternate Destination Act (Andy Parr, EMS Administrator)

Has gone back for re-write and will come out again for public comment. We anticipate a final regulation to be approved in the Fall.

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 Dr. Chris Scott, seconded by Cathy McJannet to continue having teleconference meetings. Motion carried.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Appoint New Vice-Chair – EMCC, Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee, Education and Research Subcommittee (Andy Parr, EMS Administrator)

There were no volunteers/nominations during the meeting. EMS Administrator Andy Parr and EMCC Chair Frank Parra will discuss offline and reach out to someone privately about stepping into the role.

B. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next EMCC meeting is scheduled on Thursday, April 28, 2022, at 9:30 am via Zoom. Meeting adjourned at 10:14 AM.