



# County of San Diego

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

Paul Forney, Chair/ Dr. Chris Scott, Vice Chair  
c/o Emergency Medical Services  
5560 Overland Ave, Rm 171, San Diego 92123

**Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 27, 2023**

### **Members Present**

Cote, R.N., Chara – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators  
Davis, Sgt. Mike – Law Enforcement Agencies  
Forney, Paul – SD County Ambulance Association  
Froelich, Dan – County Paramedic Agencies Committee  
Graydon, R.N., Cheryl – Emergency Nurses' Association  
Jenkins, Danisha – Hospital Association of SD/Imperial Counties (Alt)  
Jordan, Jonathan – SD County Fire Districts' Association  
Kahn, M.D., Christopher – District 4  
Sloane, M.D., Christian – District 5  
Walters, Sean – SD County Paramedic Association (Alt)  
Wiese, Lisha – Hospital Association of SD/Imperial Counties  
Uppenkamp, R.N., Tina – American Red Cross (Alt)

### **In Attendance**

Bollinger, Nate – Stryker  
Chandler, Craig – Stryker  
Garibay, Albert – Barona Fire  
Levine, MD, Saul – Sharp Memorial  
Pearson, Nate – Carlsbad FD  
Smith, Ray – Chula Vista FD

### **Not in Attendance**

District 1  
District 2  
District 3  
Military Agencies  
SD County Fire Chiefs' Association  
SD County Medical Society

### **County Staff**

Assof, Michael  
Christison, Brian  
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)  
Meick, Tyler  
Parr, Andy  
Trousdale, Brad

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## **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.

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

There were no public comments/petitions.

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## **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A motion was made by Dr. Chris Kahn, seconded by Dan Froelich to approve the March 23, 2023 EMCC minutes. Motion carried.**

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## **IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

The group met. Discussed policies S-400 and S-416; The subcommittee suggested a second phase of public comment. These policies are open for public comment for 30 days (4/14 – 5/13).

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

The group did not meet.

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

- Wildfire scenario exercise May 18.
- Two tabletop exercises April 26 & 28.
- Watching the Title 42 lifting of asylum seekers. Due to end on May 11.

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**V. COUNTY REPORTS**

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

- i. COVID-19 Update  
There was no report given.

**B. Administrative Report – Tyler Meick, EMS Coordinator**

- Health Services Capacity Plan Level moved to Level 4 – Enhanced Surveillance; CDC COVID-19 Community Level is Low; Southern California Fire Preparedness Level is at Level 1.
- The Comprehensive Base Station Hospital and Trauma Catchment Area Consultant’s work is underway! There will be ample opportunity to receive public comment as they gather input and begin to formulate 6 different models for us to compare as models for the future of EMS in San Diego County. The Consultant will also look at the Trauma Center Catchment Area Map to assure that Trauma Centers receive an optimal balance of Trauma calls at each center.
- Policies and Protocols: The 2023-2024 protocol review is completed. A summary of all updates is posted on the County EMS webpage. The timeline for final implementation is on track for July 1, 2023.

Some notable additions to this year’s protocol package include:

- TXA for significant traumatic and post-partum hemorrhage
- Buprenorphine pilot program
- Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation Cardiac Arrest pilot
- The FAST-ED stroke severity score

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for taking the time to provide valuable recommendations for change, and to critically evaluate the draft protocols to make our system as up-to-date and evidence informed as possible.

- EMS Fleetmap changes coming soon:

Kaiser Permanente will be opening a new hospital in the San Marcos area with emergency department services. This hospital is slated to open in August 2023. In anticipation of this facility opening, RCS has created two new 800 Mhz radio talk groups.

- *KSMAR* will be added to the “BLS” zone.
- *SD MEDAIR2* will be added to the “BLS” zone to be used as the secondary air to ground channel between the scene and air ambulance providers.

RCS/Sheriff Wireless is currently planning this integration with updated fleet map(s) and a plan to create new “code plugs” which are needed to reprogram all necessary Fire, EMS, and public/private agency radios.

Phase 1, RCS will need to “touch” every radio in every ambulance. A plan is already underway to update ambulances in the North County first, then ambulances in the central region, and so forth.

Phase 2 will include fire apparatus, law enforcement and any other remaining vehicles.

Agencies will be notified when it’s their turn to update radios. Agencies may be asked to bring vehicles (& radios) to a centralized location to facilitate the rapid update of your agency’s radios. Once notified of the coming updates and schedule, we ask that all agencies and companies to coordinate with RCS/Sheriff Wireless to ensure these updates occur in a timely manner.

- Upcoming state Paramedic Scope of Practice changes:

The State of California EMS Authority has notified stakeholders that a regulatory update to include additional medications for the paramedic scope of practice posted for a 45-day public comment period on April 21. These additions would move TXA, ketorolac, ketamine, and IV acetaminophen from Local Optional Scope of Practice to basic scope, lowering the regulatory burden for those LEMSAs adopting these treatment modalities. County EMS supports these adjustments, and are proud that our local successes with ketamine and acetaminophen have provided support to this enhancement in state paramedic practice.

- Public Comment Process is LIVE and improving everyday:
  - Public Comment Posting Notification email “subscription” is active. Please submit your email if you would like to receive notification of upcoming public comment periods
  - “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 section of the webpage
  - Current Policies are available for comment include:
    - Scope of Practice for Paramedics, T-460A Trauma Patient Criteria, and the new ECPR Care Center Designation requirements
- EMSA Policy Update:

As a reminder, the ability for EMS personnel to exercise the expanded services allowed by the Governor’s Executive Order ended February 28. EMS personnel are no longer be able to:

  - Perform their current SOP in hospitals, Alternate Care Sites, Shelters, or any other static site
  - Conduct Covid and Influenza testing
  - Provide vaccinations (COVID, Flu, and/or MPX)
  - And paramedics will no longer be authorized to Administer or monitor mAb (Monoclonal Antibody Treatments)
- Several County Meetings are returning to in-person: County EMS holds several community meetings each month. 6 are “Brown Act” meetings and require specific public notification, access, and recordation. The prior allowances under AB-361 and the Governor’s Emergency Order ended February 28, 2023. Committee members should plan on attending the EMCC, CSA-17 Advisory Board, and these bodies’ subcommittee meetings in person.
- Current Medication Shortages: County EMS is aware of multiple medication shortages including albuterol, dextrose and activated charcoal. Additional information and guidance on these medication shortages can be found on the homepage of our website. Also, we would like to remind everyone that our previous guidance on the use of metered dose inhalers is still active and paramedics may use albuterol metered dose inhalers in lieu of nebulized albuterol.
- EMT Renewals – submit early!

In the spring of odd-numbered years (2023, 2025, etc.), the County EMS Credentialing Team is inundated with EMT renewal applications. Agencies are asked to work with their EMT staff to make sure their applications are submitted early to avoid the rush. As a reminder, EMT Skills Verifications are no longer waived.
- County EMS Office Holiday Closure Advisory: May 29, 2023 Memorial Day (County Holiday)
- New Faces soon at EMS: County EMS has hired a number of new employees. In addition, we have a few more positions in the pipeline. Our goal is improving the presence in the EMS Community specifically well our customer service, outreach, and participation with the Hospital and EMS agencies as needed.
- Fee Schedule Escalation – Year 3: Two years ago, EMCC gave their approval for a 3-year escalation of EMS personnel fees. Beginning July 1, 2023, EMS personnel fee will escalate \$20 additional dollars to \$146 every other year in accordance with Board Policy B-29 which requires cost recovery for County required services.
- EMS Medical Director Regulatory Oversight: Many of you that have used the County EMS Medical Director as your own will soon be receiving an official termination letter. The final termination date for these services is 7/1/2023. EMS Agency Administrators are requested to update their LEMSIS Agency profile with their EMS Medical Director listed. Even better would be for your EMS Medical Director to have their own LEMSIS Account so they can receive all the official communications send by the EMS Office in real time.

**i. EMS Technology Presentation**

Michael Assof, EMS Coordinator, presented the EMS Mobile App, which is accessible at <https://emsmobile.sandiegocounty.gov/>. The EMS Mobile App is a browser-based application and works on any internet connected device with a web browser. The app consists of the following features: Adult Protocols, Pediatric Protocols, Policies, References, Bookmarks, Keyword Searching.

The committee provided several suggestions following the presentation. Comments or suggestions can be sent to Brian Christison at [brian.christison@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:brian.christison@sdcounty.ca.gov) or to Michael Assof at [Michael.Assof@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Michael.Assof@sdcounty.ca.gov)

**ii. EMCC Membership**

- Catherine McJannet, District 1, has resigned. The seat is now vacant.
- Dr. Gene Ma, District 3, will be resigning. The seat will be vacant soon.
- Dr. Christopher Kahn, District 4, term has expired. Dr. Saul Levine will fill the seat.

**iii. Upcoming Board Actions**

- May 2 & May 23: EMS Fees increase Presentation
- May 23: Update to Community Paramedicine
- May 22-26: EMS Week

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**VI. SYSTEM POLICY REVIEW (EMCC Advisory Position)**

There were no policies for review.

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**VII. REPORTS**

**A. Base Hospital/Trauma Catchment Review**

Brian Christison, Program Coordinator, provided an update on this project's progress. Please see the County EMS website for up-to-date information.

**B. Community Paramedicine**

Tyler Meick, EMS Coordinator, provided an update on this work. An Advisory Council Meeting has been formed and is actively reviewing draft language for Community Paramedicine & Triage to Alternate Destination (CP/TAD) policies. Staff are drafting an application to California State EMSA for their approval of the County's CP/TAD plan. Next steps will include finalizing policies and protocols. Future work includes include completing community needs assessments, securing potential alternate destination sites, developing a fees schedule, and submitting the state application.

**C. EMS Fees**

Brian Christison, Program Coordinator, shared the following PowerPoint presentation: [San Diego County Fire EMS Office FY 2023-24 Fee Package](#)

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**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. 9-1-1 Center Nurse Navigation**

Paul Forney, AMR Operations Manager, shared the following PowerPoint presentation: [El Cajon Community Care Nurse Navigation Pilot Program](#)

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**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

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**X. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT**

The next EMCC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 9:30 am in person at the County Operations Center – 5560 Overland Ave, Room 171. Meeting adjourned at 10:41 AM.