



# 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, April 28, 2022**

#### **Members Present**

Cote, R.N., Chara – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators  
Forney, Paul – SD County Ambulance Association  
Froelich, Dan – County Paramedic Agencies Committee  
George, Sgt, Richard – Law Enforcement Agencies  
Kahn, M.D., Christopher – District 4  
Lawler, Andy – SD County Fire Districts' Association  
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  
Rosenberg, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses' Association (Alt)  
Uppenkamp, R.N., Tina – American Red Cross  
Wells, R.N., Christine – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators (Alt)  
Wiese, Lisha – Hospital Association of SD & Imperial Counties

#### **In Attendance**

Covell, Brian – Scripps Mercy SD  
Duffy, Jennifer – SMFD  
Flannery, Kathleen  
Garibay, Albert – Barona Fire  
Jackson, Ennis – AMR/RCCP  
Lord, Scott – Mercy Air  
O'Boyle, Lt. Anthony – Sheriff's Dept  
Parker, Seth – CARE Ambulance  
Pearson, Danielle – CVFD  
Saner, Dan – Falck  
Seabloom, Lynn – Oceanside FD  
Stauffer, Kim – SDFRD  
Sullivan, Don – AMR  
Sumek, Caryn – HASDIC  
Zimmerman, Stephanie – Mercy Air

#### **Not in Attendance**

District 2  
District 5  
Military Agencies  
SD County Fire Districts' Association  
SD County Medical Society  
SD County Paramedic Association

#### **County Staff**

Abedin, Sanaa  
Christison, Brian  
Collins, Jeff  
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)  
Erickson, Kirk  
Gall, Jessica  
Koenig, M.D., Kristi  
Martin, Adalver  
McDonald, M.D., Eric  
Parr, Andy  
Regier, Marc  
Robbins, Christi  
Rogers, Cody  
Smith, PhD, Josh  
Stepanski, Barbara  
Tuteur, M.D., Jennifer  
Westerheide, Chuck

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## 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. Lt. Anthony O'Boyle with the San Diego County Sheriff's Department introduced himself as he will be replacing Lt. Shawn Wray.
- D. There were no announcements made.

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## II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ PETITIONS

There were no public comments or petitions.

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## III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**A motion was made by Chara Cote, seconded by Paul Forney to approve the March 24, 2022 EMCC minutes. Motion carried.**

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## IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee – Chara Cote, RN

The group met. Paradise Valley Hospital is becoming a STEMI Receiving Center as of May 2, 2022. Sr. Epidemiologist Josh Smith shared a PowerPoint presentation with data from the diversion policy changes implemented during the height of the COVID-19 patient surge. The group also discussed FirstWatch going forward with the Transfer of Care being tied to the RN signature and not tied to the Transfer of Care button.

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

The group did not meet. AB1544 has re-opened the public comment period.

### C. Disaster Planning Subcommittee – Lisha Wiese

A largescale earthquake exercise will occur on July 21, along Rose Canyon. Hospitals and skilled nursing facilities are encouraged to participate. If first responders are interested in being included in the exercise, can contact Donna Johnson at [donna.johnson3@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:donna.johnson3@sdcounty.ca.gov).

(Andy Parr) There are revisions being made to the EMCC Bylaws. The EMS Office will work on assembling a meeting with the Disaster Planning Subcommittee in the next week to discuss those changes.

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## 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 provided a PowerPoint presentation on the following topics:

- Influenza
- Hepatitis in Children
- Drug Shortages in EMS system and hospitals
- Preparing for an influx of people at border due to lifting of Title 42
- ECMO Receiving Center workgroup being developed

Dr. Jen Tuteur provided information about oral antiviral medications and monoclonal antibody treatment options. No cost and no referral is needed. 619-685-2500. More information is also available at [this link](#).

Dr. Eric McDonald provided information on the newly released [DHS Plan for Southwest Border Security and Preparedness](#) in anticipation of elimination of Title 42.

**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. San Diego County Fire / EMS Division Advisory Committees – Bylaw Updates Coming Soon!

Continuing the work of moving County EMS to be a Division of San Diego County Fire the bylaws for both the CSA 17 Advisory Committee and the Emergency Medical Care Committee need to be updated to reflect these organizational changes. Please look for these DRAFT (mostly housekeeping) Bylaw changes on upcoming Advisory Committee meeting agendas.

4. Paradise Valley Hospital now a STEMI Receiving Center

The County EMS office has completed a review of Paradise Valley Hospital's application to become a STEMI Receiving Center. This review included all requirements per policy S-020 STEMI Critical Care System Designation and an on-site facility review by the EMS team. Go-live date was Monday, May 2nd at 07:00.

5. County EMS Personnel Fees mark year two of three incremental increases:

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) beginning July 1, 2022. Other EMS programmatic fees are also being adjusted and become effective at the same time.

6. COVID Masking Reminder: To reduce the risk of viral spread, and in compliance with current CDPH regulations, we remind EMS providers that masks must be worn in all healthcare settings. When entering a healthcare facility, EMS professionals must be masked.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. Capacity Plan: The All-Hazard Health Service Capacity Management Plan was lowered to a Level 4 Enhanced Surveillance. The plan level was de-escalated on April 12 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](http://SanDiegoCountyEMS.com).

10. 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 (More to Follow)
  - 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. Further extensions may be necessary).
11. EMS Protocol Review for 2022:  
The EMS team has finished the final protocol reviews for 2022. Thanks to all those who submitted suggested revisions. The revised protocols have been finalized and distributed in advance of education and training updates. Implementation of the revised protocols is scheduled for July 1st, 2022.
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 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 LEMSA and the no-cost Elite PCR.
13. San Diego County EMS Office Strategic Plan is underway! San Diego County Fire has contracted with a local firm to conduct a Strategic Analysis and create a Strategic Plan for San Diego County EMS. This new plan will dovetail with the existing San Diego County Fire Strategic Plan and will align the strategic vision of County EMS with the strategic vision of County Fire. Representatives of selected stakeholder groups are being solicited and will be asked to join the consultant in listening sessions so their voices can be heard in support of the creation of the plan. This work will take place very soon and the timeline for the release of the plan will be this Summer.
14. New San Diego County EMS Office Logo: Please join us in celebrating our new logo for EMS.
  - i. **EMS Data Presentation – Josh Smith, PhD, Sr. Epidemiologist**  
A PowerPoint presentation was shared – County of San Diego, EMS Analysis of New Diversion Policy. This presentation included data from the diversion policy changes implemented during the height of the December 2021-January 2022 COVID-19 patient surge. Data was compared from the pre-surge, during the surge, and post-surge with the two ambulance diversion policies. Group discussion followed by question-and-answer session.
  - ii. **EMCC Membership – Andy Parr, EMS Administrator**  
The membership terms are listed on the back of the agenda. The expired terms are highlighted. Members can serve two consecutive terms. It is important not to let your seat expire. The members representing the Sheriff's Department may be changing as they have had personnel rotation in their department.
  - iii. **Recent Board Action – Andy Parr, EMS Administrator**  
The Board of Supervisors recently passed the increase of \$20 in our personnel fees effective July 1, 2022.

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

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There were no system policies for review.

Brian Christison shared a PowerPoint presentation: [EMS Policy and Protocol Format Updates](#).

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## VII. OLD BUSINESS

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

The RFP for the Evaluation of the Base Station System and Trauma Catchment Designation Area did not receive any bids. Working internally to make a decision on what to do.

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

The public comment period for AB1544 Community Paramedicine or Triage to Alternate Destination regulations opened about a month ago. This set of draft regulations was a rewrite of the prior draft. That public comment period closed last Friday. Anticipate seeing another round of regulations for draft.

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 Paul Forney to continue having teleconference meetings. Motion carried by consensus.**

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## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

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

**A motion was made by Dr. Chris Scott, seconded by Chara Cote to nominate Paul Forney as the new Vice-Chair to EMCC. Motion carried by consensus.**

B. Annex D – Review Process – (Andy Parr, EMS Administrator)

A committee was assembled and met on several occasions to go over the Annex D draft. The committee provided final comments, and those were recently provided to the San Diego County Fire Chiefs Association. Still under review by the Fire Chiefs Association.

C. S-010 Emergency Department Ambulance Diversion Workgroup – (Brian Christison, EMS Coordinator)

The Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee is the home for the drafting. The subcommittee voted to form a workgroup. Continue to recruit and prefer you have a representative sample of all pieces of our EMS delivery system including hospital administrators, base hospital nurse coordinators, ED managers and physicians, EMS providers. If interested in participating, requires a fair amount of work including meetings. Can email Brian Christison at [brian.christison@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:brian.christison@sdcounty.ca.gov).

D. Presentation: What Red Cross Does During a Disaster – (Laura Lyons, RN)

A PowerPoint presentation was shared with the group that covered the following: American Red Cross Services, Disaster Services on Call 24/7, Disaster Services Provided, and Disaster Services San Diego Chapter.

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## E. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next EMCC meeting is scheduled on Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 9:30 am via Zoom. Meeting adjourned at 10:52 AM.