



# 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, May 25, 2023**

#### **Members Present**

Calderwood, Michael – SD County Fire Chiefs' Association  
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  
Scott, M.D., Christopher – SD County Medical Society  
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)

#### **Not in Attendance**

District 1  
District 2  
District 3  
County Paramedic Agencies Committee  
Law Enforcement Agencies  
Military Agencies

#### **In Attendance**

Levine, MD, Saul – Sharp Memorial  
Safferman, Michelle – UCSD  
Smith, Ray – Chula Vista FD  
Sullivan, Don – AMR  
Vithalani, Veer – Palomar Health

#### **County Staff**

Assof, Michael  
Bey, Christian  
Christison, Brian  
Collins, Jeff  
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)  
Meick, Tyler

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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**

- A public comment was given by Dr. Chris Kahn.
1. Requesting real time in-person public commenting remain available for all EMCC and Subcommittee meetings.
  2. Requesting EMS provider agency representation on any county EMS committee where policies and protocols that involve EMS providers are discussed.

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### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A motion was made by Jonathan Jordan, seconded by Cheryl Graydon to approve the April 27, 2023 EMCC minutes. Motion carried.**

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#### IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

- Approved Policies P-401 and S-030 to move forward.
- Discussed the new acuity status in Resource Bridge that is going for trial in two Chula Vista hospitals.
- Discussed Policy T-460; not ready; going back to Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting.

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

The group did not meet. The meeting got rescheduled and will be meeting today after the EMCC meeting.

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

- Most hospitals participated in a regionwide exercise last week featuring multiple wildfires.
- Next exercise in the Fall; will feature a pediatric component.

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#### V. COUNTY REPORTS

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

- COVID-19 Update  
There was no report given.

##### B. Administrative Report – Brian Christison, Program Coordinator

- Health Services Capacity Plan Level at Level 4 – Enhanced Surveillance; CDC COVID-19 Community Level is Low; Southern California Fire Preparedness Level is at Level 1.
- 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
- 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.
- County EMS Office Holiday Closure Advisory: May 29, 2023 Memorial Day (County Holiday), June 19, 2023 Juneteenth (County Holiday)
- 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.

i. **EMS Data Presentation**

Sr Epidemiologist Josh Smith shared the following PowerPoint presentation: [Gun Violence Reduction Community Needs Assessment](#)

ii. **EMCC Membership**

- Emergency Nurses’ Association (ENA) representatives have expired terms.
- District 1 has a new vacancy. Working with the Board office to get a nomination.
- District 4 nomination is delayed due to the recent Supervisor change.

iii. **Upcoming Board Actions**

- The update on Community Paramedicine Community Health Injury Prevention Program Triage to Alternate Destinations Report was accepted.
- The update on Unified Service Area (USA) for the back country was accepted.
- The second reading of the EMS Fees increase was endorsed.
- Anticipate additional letters to the Board to go in August/September.

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

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A. P-401: Paramedic Scope of Practice

**A motion was made to endorse Policy P-401. The group voted unanimously to endorse Policy P-401.**

B. S-030: Extracorporeal Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (ECPR) Critical Care System Designation

Dr. Saul Levine shared the following PowerPoint presentation: [ECPR and San Diego Resuscitation Consortium](#)

**A motion was made by Christian Sloane, seconded by Dr. Christopher Kahn to endorse Policy S-030. Motion carried.**

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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  
EMS Coordinator Tyler Meick shared the following PowerPoint presentation: [Community Paramedicine Updates](#)
- C. EMS Mobile App (Michael Assof, EMS Coordinator)  
The San Diego County EMS Office is pleased to announce our new EMS Mobile App. The app is now available to the community at [emsmobile.sandiegocounty.gov](https://emsmobile.sandiegocounty.gov) and a link is located on our homepage as well.

The EMS Mobile App is a browser-based application and works on any device with an internet connection and web browser. The app allows users to easily search through all protocols and policies using keywords. In addition, users can bookmark specific protocols and policies to quickly access them at any time. The EMS Mobile App also has a references section with important resources for our hospital and prehospital healthcare professionals.

Comments or suggestions can be sent to Michael Assof at [Michael.Assof@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Michael.Assof@sdcounty.ca.gov)

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**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

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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, June 22, 2023 at 9:30 am in person at the County Operations Center – 5560 Overland Ave, Room 171. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.