



County of San Diego

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE (EMCC) MEETING

Frank Parra, Chair/ Paul Forney, Vice Chair
c/o Emergency Medical Services
Zoom Meeting

Minutes
Thursday, May 26, 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
Ma, M.D., Gene – District 3
Parra, Frank – SD County Fire Chiefs' Association
Rosenberg, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses' Association (Alt)
Scott, M.D., Christopher – SD County Medical Society
Sloan, M.D., Christian – District 5
Uppenkamp, R.N., Tina – American Red Cross
Wiese, Lisha – Hospital Association of SD & Imperial Counties

In Attendance

Behm, Jeff – Falck
Covell, Brian – Scripps Mercy SD
Donofrio-Odmann, Joelle – RCHSD/SDFA
Garibay, Albert – Barona Fire
Hayflich, Vanessa – Mercy Air/Air Methods
Hinton, William – Mercy Air
Lopez, Brent – Reach Air Medical
Lord, Scott – Mercy Air
Murphy, Mary – North County FPD
O'Boyle, Lt. Anthony – Sheriff's Dept
Parker, Seth – CARE Ambulance
Saner, Dan – Falck
Schadegg, Rochelle – Scripps Mercy SD
Silk, Michael
Smith, Ray – CVFD
Stauffer, Kim – SDFRD
Sullivan, Don – AMR
Sumek, Caryn – HASDIC
Vilke, Gary – North Zone

Not in Attendance

District 1
District 2
Military Agencies
SD County Fire Districts' Association
SD County Paramedic Association

County Staff

Abedin, Sanaa
Assof, Michael
Bey, Christian
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
Thihalolipavan, Sayone
Tuteur, M.D., Jennifer
Westerheide, Chuck

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

- A. Frank Parra, EMCC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 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. An announcement was made that Mercy Air suggests the EMCC consider a seat on the committee for Air Ambulance.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ PETITIONS

There were no public comments or petitions.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Chara Cote, seconded by Lisha Wiese to approve the April 28, 2022 EMCC minutes. Motion carried.

IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee – Chara Cote, RN

The group met. Discussed Policy S-002; suggestions were made to the language; will bring back to Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee, then to the next EMCC. Dr. Chris Scott is the new Vice Chair for Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee.

B. Education and Research Subcommittee – Josh Smith on behalf of Cheryl Graydon, RN

The group met. An update was provided on the San Diego City Project; hired new staff: are up to 7 community paramedics, a physician assistant and an RN. They heard from the State that the program will remain in trial format until October when it could move to permanent status. Also discussed AB1544; put out for public comment 30 days. Per Ann Jensen and Brian Christison, the document was much improved from the previous version. The Cyber Incident Project data has been pulled. All data has been appropriately formatted for distribution and is in with the Kaiser researchers. Hoping to provide a better update at the next Education and Research Subcommittee meeting.

C. Disaster Planning Subcommittee – Lisha Wiese

The group met. Focus on upcoming largescale earthquake exercise along Rose Canyon Fault on July 21, 2022. Hospitals are developing objectives, goals, etc. Attended an SDGE workshop on (PSPS) Public Safety Power Service. Work ongoing regarding the pediatric surge plan and on the burn surge plan. For any Fire, EMS, or Hospital organizations that would like to participate in the July 21 earthquake exercise, can contact Jessica Williams with PHS, PHPR at Jessica.williams2@sdcountry.ca.gov

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:

- Opioid epidemic mitigation
- International border – the lifting of Title 42.
- Other infectious diseases
 - Influenza
 - Monkeypox

B. Administrative Report – Andy Parr, EMS Administrator

1. Staff Changes: EMS Coordinator Jaime Pitner has departed County service. For questions on clinical programs, please contact Brian Christison, Andy Parr or email EMSnotifications@sdcounty.ca.gov. Two new staff: QA Specialist Christi Robbins and EMS Specialist Michael Assof.
2. 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 administrationCoEMS 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.
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. All six of our Trauma Centers have completed their surveys. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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. Please report any shortages to EMSnotifications@sdcounty.ca.gov ideally more than 72 hours before running out of a critical supply.

9. 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.
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 is undergoing review after the first posting.
 - RFP for Paramedic Ambulance Services for CSA 17 is now available on the County's BuyNet site.
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 1, 2022.
12. 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.
 - i. **EMS Data Presentation – Josh Smith, PhD, Sr. Epidemiologist**
Two data presentations were shared with the group:
 - 1) COVID Data
 - 2) EMS System Stress & Hospital Data
 - ii. **EMCC Membership – Andy Parr, EMS Administrator**
A review of membership and terms was completed. The expired terms are highlighted. Members can serve two consecutive terms. It is important not to let your seat expire.
 - iii. **Recent Board Action – Andy Parr, EMS Administrator**
County Fire will bring the EMS fee schedule to the Board of Supervisors in June.

VI. SYSTEM POLICY REVIEW (EMCC Advisory Position)

There were no system policies for review.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

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. Will have an Industry Day in early June, which is an RFI meeting with some of the vendors who do this work and find out why they were not interested.

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

The proposed regulations need to be approved by the EMS Commission. The deadline for the next EMS Commission meeting is coming up soon.

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 meeting virtually. Motion carried.

D. EMCC Bylaws

A motion was made by Dr. Chris Scott, seconded by Chara Cote to accept the EMCC Bylaws as written. Motion carried.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Strategic Plan efforts will be added to the June EMCC agenda.

A. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next EMCC meeting is scheduled on Thursday, June 23, 2022, at 9:30 am via Zoom. Meeting adjourned at 10:27 AM.