



County of San Diego

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
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MISSION STATEMENT

“As advisors to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, the Mission of the Emergency Medical Care Committee is to be an advocate for the community through the development of strategies for continuous improvement of the emergency medical services system.”

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE (EMCC) MEETING

Frank Parra, Chair/ Chara Cote, R.N., Vice-Chair
c/o Emergency Medical Services
Virtual meeting via Bluejeans

Minutes

Thursday, June 25, 2020

Members Present

Adler, Fred – District 3
Blacksberg, David – Hospital Association of SD & Imp Counties
Cote, R.N., Chara – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators
Covell, R.N., Brian – District 2
Kahn, M.D., Christopher – District 4
Lyons, R.N., Laura – American Red Cross
McJannet, R.N., Catherine – District 1
Mercer, Kevin – SD County Ambulance Association
Parra, Frank – SD County Fire Chiefs’ Association
Pearson, Danielle – County Paramedic Agencies Committee(Alt)
Rosenberg, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses’ Association
Scott, M.D., Christopher – SD County Medical Society

In Attendance

Baudoin, Madeleine – AMR
Caplan, Gregg – Ambu
Lord, Scott – Mercy Air
Seabloom, Lynn – Oceanside FD
Silk, Michael
Sloan, M.D., Christian – Mercy Air/North Zone
Smith, Zach – AMR/CSA-17
Sullivan, Don – AMR
Sumek, Caryn – HASDIC
Vilke, Gary – North Zone

Not in Attendance

District 5
Law Enforcement Agencies
Military Agencies
SD County Fire Districts’ Association
SD County Paramedic Association

County Staff

Calzone, R.N., Lorraine
Cavanaugh, Adria
Christison, Brian
Choe, Grace
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)
Hrubovcak, Wendy
Koenig, M.D., Kristi
Lee, Chris
Pacheco, Cheryl
Parr, Andy
Pitner, Jaime
Rogers, Cody
Tuteur, M.D., Jennifer
Velasco, Anjelica
Yphantides, M.D., Nick

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

Frank Parra, EMCC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. The group did not recite the Pledge of Allegiance due to the meeting being virtual. There were no introductions or announcements made. Attendance was captured online through the chat box.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ PETITIONS

There were no public comments or petitions submitted.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Fred Adler, seconded by Kevin Mercer to approve the May 28, 2020 minutes. Motion carried.

IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee

Did not meet.

B. Education/Research Subcommittee

Did not meet.

C. Disaster Planning Subcommittee

Did not meet.

V. COUNTY REPORT (Reports)

A. Clinical Report – Kristi Koenig, MD

i. COVID-19 Update

This is a tricky virus with rapidly evolving information. We are very fortunate to have existing infrastructures in place such as advisory bodies and the Health Services Capacity Task Force that has been meeting regularly to examine the various metrics we use and the Level 1 (highest level of activation) of our capacity plan and watching things very closely. Unfortunately, many things have become politicized surrounding the public masking/face coverings and have seen threats against public health officials. This is the biggest challenge we have ever faced and suggest this is not the time to let our guard down. Very critical time right now; seeing a rise in cases in multiple parts of the country and we must stay very focused on the science.

A reminder of our 3-pronged strategy:

- 1) Flattening the curve through various non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs).
 - 2) Increasing healthcare system capacity using the 3S surge system model: stuff, staff, and structure.
 - 3) Working through an incident command system.
- We are currently doing quite well, however the R0 has crept up above 1 and needs to be below 1 in order to control the pandemic. If we do get an exponential growth, it can progress very rapidly. Still seeing an increase in cases daily, but fortunately still slowly ascending in cases.
 - Two simultaneous reasons for the increase in cases: (1) opening the economy and (2) cases from Mexico, in large part transfers from Imperial County who is
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caring for patients coming from Mexicali. As the economy is opening up, people are going out. A concern is younger healthier people can be contracting the virus, not getting sick, and spreading it to the higher risk groups. We may see increased hospitalizations in the coming weeks, followed by deaths, which is a lagging indicator.

- There is talk of a second wave, but we are still in our first wave. Possibility of seasonal variation and concern regarding co-existence with the fall flu season. Very important to get the flu vaccination this year. The CDC has reported a combined Influenza A, B and coronavirus viral test coming. Still do not have heard immunity until get a safe and effective vaccine, so dependent on vigorous NPIs. For now, apply the three Ws: Wash your hands; Wear your mask; Walk away.
- Also doing containment via the County's T3 strategy: test, trace, and treat.
- California has issued a statewide masking order and the CDC is coming out with updated recommendations for masking.
- Very fortunate we had early experience in San Diego County and early implementation of NPIs and implemented physical distancing and face masking in the fire houses very early.
- Our prehospital staff should treat everyone like they have COVID-19. Prehospital patient volume had dipped following the declaration of the COVID-19 national emergency, ED visits declined 23% heart attacks, 20% for stroke, and 10% hyperglycemic crisis. Now trending back up towards baseline.
- ED ILI came down to 1%, bumped back up to 2%, but still very low.
- Overall healthcare capacity remains good. We had sufficient personal protective equipment in the field and in the hospitals.
- Nearing drug shortages; watching closely glucagon, lidocaine and epinephrine
- Watching metrics very closely; a community outbreak trigger was hit.
- Dr. Koenig shared a few slides similar to what was presented at yesterday's media briefing.

In summary, we currently have healthcare capacity in our system to meet patient care needs, but the situation can change quickly and dramatically as the R0 exceeds 1. Monitoring these metrics very closely. We are in a critical time right now for both our country and our county where things can quickly go either way, depending on the behavior of the virus and how we behave. We may see a surge in the coming weeks, so we need to keep our guard up. Counting on everyone to remain focused and keep us updated of any observations from the front line.

B. Administrative Report – Andy Parr

The EOC and the MOC from Public Health will be moving to another location nearby for HHSA staff on July 9. This is due to the EOC needing to prepare and mobilize for other potential emergencies. There will be no change in level of activation and will have the same number of staff. MCSD EMS staff such as Andy Parr, Anjelica Velasco and Dr. Jen Tuteur will continue their EOC assignment in the foreseeable future at the new location.

The Situation Report was shared with the group. Case counts and age groups were discussed. The following six hyperlinks, which are listed on the Situation Report, were highly emphasized to the group:

- 1) [Order of the Health Officer and Emergency Regulations](#)
- 2) [Data on San Diego County COVID-19 Cases](#)
- 3) [COVID-19 Testing in San Diego](#)
- 4) [County of San Diego Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Dashboard](#)

- 5) [Johns Hopkins Dashboard for COVID-19 Cases](#)
- 6) [COVID-19 Watch](#)

Imperial County patient transfers occur daily. About 50% are coming to San Diego County, which is impacting our system. The County COVID EOC, the Hospital Association of San Diego and Imperial Counties (HASDIC), and the Imperial County EMS Agency are working closely together to monitor these transfers.

Brian Christison shared additional actions of the following categories since the last EMCC meeting, which are also posted at www.sandiegocountyems.com:

- County Public Health Orders
- CoSD EMS Frequently Asked/Answered Question document updates
- CoSD EMS Memos
- Health Services Capacity Task Force (HSCTF)
 - All Hazard Health Services Capacity Management Plan (activated throughout this season)
 - Expanded Operational Group coordination calls

EMS Operational updates – the following daily activities continue:

- Credentialing Team has issued more than 1,200 applications since mid-March. The extension for EMTs and paramedics has moved to July 31, and there will not be another extension.
- Base Station Physicians Committee (BSPC) and Prehospital Audit Committee (PAC) processes are ongoing.
- Epidemiologists conduct daily monitoring, including weekends and holidays. Issued more than 100 daily reports since mid-March.
- Contracting Team executed five new transport contracts to manage transports to and from public health facilities, four new Statements of Work on existing contracts, and two new testing contracts to support the MCSD and Public Health initiatives.

C. MOC Report

No report.

VI. TRANSFER OF CARE (TOC) REPORTING – (Brian Christison)

Josh Smith is working on transitioning the Transfer of Care reporting to a new platform. May numbers have not been updated due to new platform going into effect soon.

VII. SYSTEM POLICY REVIEW (EMCC Advisory Position)

No update.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

IX. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next EMCC meeting is planned to be held virtually and is scheduled for July 23, 2020. Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:03 AM.