



County of San Diego

HERMAN REDDICK
DIRECTOR
(858) 467-9662
Fax (858) 467-9662

PUBLIC SAFETY GROUP
SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE
SAN DIEGO COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OFFICE
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 250, San Diego, CA 92123-1239
www.SanDiegoCountyEMS.com

ANDREW (ANDY) PARR
EMS ADMINISTRATOR
Deputy Director, Departmental Operations
(858) 245-4231

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE (EMCC) MEETING

Frank Parra, Chair/ Brian Covell, R.N., Vice-Chair
c/o Emergency Medical Services
Virtual meeting via Zoom

Minutes

Thursday, July 22, 2021

Members Present

Brainard, Criss – SD County Fire Chiefs' Association
Carlson, R.N., Sharon – Hospital Association of SD/Imperial (Alt)
Covell, R.N., Brian – District 2
Froelich, Dan – County Paramedic Agencies' Committee
George, Sgt, Richard – Law Enforcement Agencies
Graydon, R.N., Cheryl – Emergency Nurses' Association
Kahn, M.D., Christopher – District 4
Lyons, R.N., Laura – American Red Cross
Ma, M.D., Gene – District 3
Mercer, Kevin – SD County Ambulance Association
Molloy, Bernard – SD County Fire Districts' Association
Rosenberg, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses' Association
Scott, M.D., Christopher – SD County Medical Society
Sloan, M.D., Christian – District 5
Wells, R.N., Christine – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators

In Attendance

Baudoin, Madeleine – AMR
Caplan, Gregg – Ambu Inc
Chandler, Craig – Stryker
Donofrio-Odmann, Joelle – RCHSD/SDFA
Duffy, Jennifer – SMFD
Farcas, M.D., Andra – UCSD EMS Fellow
Forney, Paul – AMR
Francis, Allen - CACHCS
Garibay, Albert – Barona Fire
Hodges, Anne – Alvarado Hospital
Lawler, Andy – San Miguel Fire
Logan, Drew – Alvarado Hospital
Martin, Geoffrey – Southwestern College
Parker, Seth – Care Medical Transport
Pearson, Danielle – Chula Vista FD
Pierce, Jodi – SDFD
Seabloom, Lynn – Oceanside FD
Stauffer, Kim – SDFD
Sullivan, Don – AMR
Sumek, Caryn – HASDIC
Timmons, Lance – American Red Cross

Not in Attendance

District 1
Military Agencies
SD County Paramedic Association

County Staff

Abedin, Sanaa
Cavanaugh, Adria
Christison, Brian
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)
Gall, R.N., Jessica
Hrubvocak, Wendy
Koenig, M.D., Kristi
Martin, Adilver
Parr, Andy
Pitner, Jaime
Rogers, Cody

Reddick, Herman
Schoenheit, R.N., Candy
Smith, PhD, Josh
Tuteur, M.D., Jennifer

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

- A. Brian Covell, EMCC Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:31 AM.
- B. The group skipped the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. In lieu of introductions, attendance was captured online.
- D. There were no announcements made.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ PETITIONS

There were no public comments or petitions.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dan Froelich, seconded by Kevin Mercer to approve the June 24, 2021 minutes. Motion carried.

IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee – Brian Covell, RN

The group met and approved Policy S-421 to move forward to the full EMCC today.

B. Education/Research Subcommittee – Cheryl Graydon, RN

The group met, but since there was no quorum, could not vote.

- A PowerPoint slide review on Stroke Activation During COVID was provided by Lorraine Chmielewski.
- Dr. Chris Scott and Josh Smith are putting together a project to look at what happened during the Scripps downtime and how it affected the system overall. Kaiser will help with the IRB.
- No update on AB 1544.

C. Disaster Planning Subcommittee – Sharon Carlson, RN

The group did not meet. An Annex D Mass Casualty Plan revision is happening behind the scenes.

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.

B. Administrative Report – Brian Christison, EMS Coordinator

1. County EMS transition to Public Safety Group is complete. On June 29 the final piece of the administrative transfer of the activities and responsibilities of the LEMSA were transferred from the County's Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) to the County's Public Safety Group (PSG). The County Board of Supervisors approved the amendment of Board Policy K-12 which designated the San Diego County Emergency Medical Services Office as the LEMSA for the County. This move better aligns and centralizes the many emergency services elements of the County under one single

Group. For most stakeholders and the public, this change is a seamless administrative transition for the EMS Office. The San Diego County EMS Office is administratively housed as a Division under San Diego County Fire.

There is no change to County EMS fees or fees amounts. As promised, the transition from HHSA to PSG was both fast and will continue to be slow. The next item for transition is the County EMS fee structure will be administratively shifted from HHSA code section to the PSG code section via a Board action tentatively scheduled for August.

For all you Board watchers, CSA-69 will also be on the agenda. There are no changes to the services provided or service levels for this ambulance operational area, but the service providers have made a revenue agreement with the County, and we expect a Board action to begin this process to be added to the agenda in August.

2. Listening sessions for Base Hospital and Trauma Catchment review:

RFI posted Friday, 7/2 and close Friday, 7/23. There will be Survey Monkey link where feedback can be submitted. Comments may also be submitted via survey questions attached to RFI. Listening session information is listed below – attendance is not required to provide feedback.

3. EMSA waivers come to a close September 30

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

All of these emergency standards will conclude on September 30, 2021, including for training courses that began prior to this date. EMSA has, however, created a Local Optional Scope of Practice template to authorize EMS vaccination efforts beyond September 30 – the San Diego EMS Office has submitted our request to continue this important work.

4. New LEMSIS Agency live:

Escondido Fire Department has implemented the LEMSIS Elite ePCR platform. This adoption allows their records to instantaneously post to the LEMSIS Hospital Hub, link to the base hospital record, flow to the state CEMSIS data repository, and skip the FirstWatch Transfer of Care button since LEMSIS transfer of care times are calculated from the ePCR.

5. New Ambulance Diversion Policy in effect.

The updated Ambulance Diversion policy took effect on July 1. Ambulance Diversion may be instituted for up to four hours. Any request to extend diversion past four hours requires the County EMS Duty Officer to approve. The County EMS Duty Officer may also place an ED on diversion if indicated – primarily for long offload delays or other signs an ED is saturated to the point the EMS system is affected. The prior practice of routinely accepting incoming patients while on ED Diversion is no longer appropriate. When an ED is on Diversion, patients requesting that facility requires the Base Hospital to agree that accepting a particular patient is in the best interests of that patient - this

is a much higher bar than in the concluded ED Bypass policy. This requires good medical judgment by the MICN to determine appropriate destinations.

As a reminder, all hospitals are responsible for updating their ED and specialty diversion statuses in Resource Bridge.

6. Capacity Plan: The All-Hazard Health Service Capacity Management Plan is currently at a Level 3 Partial Activation. EMS Epidemiologists have continued the continuous 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.

7. County EMS Duty Officer

CoSD EMS Duty Officer contact methods have changed. Please make note of these changes as we will stop answering the old phone number and announcing these changes soon. We have continued to receive regular calls to the old 800 number, and soon will no longer receive those transferred calls. (619-588-0397)

i. **STEMI Receiving Center Application from Paradise Valley Hospital – Jaime Pitner, EMS Coordinator**

Paradise Valley Hospital has submitted an application to become a designated STEMI Receiving Center. A team has been put together within the EMS office to review and evaluate per the County and State regulations. Currently in the review process.

ii. **EMS Data Presentation – Josh Smith, PhD**

The County of San Diego EMS Surveillance Report dashboard was presented to the group. In summary, things are as busy as the system has ever seen. A COVID vaccine dashboard link was provided. There was discussion and Q&A on testing. If anyone is having any challenges, can contact Brian Christison or Dr. Jennifer Tuteur to address immediately. Dr. Tuteur provided a link to the COVID Watch.

iii. **EMCC Membership – Andy Parr, EMS Administrator**

The following membership terms will be renewed in August: Dan Froelich and his alternate Mary Murphy; Bernie Molloy and his alternate Andy Lawler; Tina Uppenkamp will be replacing Cheryl Mednick. All will be placed on the next Board of Supervisors agenda in August for appointment.

The primary seat must be active before the alternate seat can be appointed. Agencies are asked to ensure their appointed members are current.

VI. SYSTEM POLICY REVIEW (EMCC Advisory Position)

A. Ad hoc Committees

- i. S-421: Sexual Assault Patient Destination (formerly known as S-137)

A motion was made by Chris Scott, seconded by Chris Wells to approve Policy S-421. Motion carried.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

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

A lot of input and advice was received for the RFI to inform the consultant procurement process. EMS will capture all of the submitted data and give to the consultant, once the

consultant is procured. The two virtual RFI sessions were informative, cooperative, and collaborative. Will move through the Department of Purchasing and Contracting for the selection of the consultant.

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

Regulations are still in draft. These rules will be important for us to make decisions or to assemble a committee. EMSA is reviewing the first round of stakeholder committee comments and will go out for public comment hopefully within the month.

C. Consultant's Recommendation Review (Andy Parr, EMS Administrator)

A White Paper was recently delivered to both County Service Areas, with some recommendations are being worked through now. The White Paper for CSA 17 is informing the procurement phase for this service area. The recommendations, processes and priorities will be provided on a report card and will be implemented at the next CSA 17 Advisory Committee meeting in August.

VIII. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The month of August is dark. The next EMCC meeting is scheduled on Thursday, September 23, 2021 via Zoom. Meeting adjourned at 10:27 AM.