



County of San Diego

NICK MACCHIONE, FACHE
AGENCY DIRECTOR

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
6255 MISSION GORGE ROAD, MAIL STOP S-555
SAN DIEGO, CA 92120-3599
(619) 285-6429 · FAX (619) 285-6531

NICK YPHANTIDES, MD, MPH
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

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, July 23, 2020

Members Present

Abbott, Stephen – District 5
Adler, Fred – District 3
Blacksberg, David – HASDIC
Carlson, R.N., Sharon – HASDIC
Cote, R.N., Chara – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators
Covell, R.N., Brian – District 2
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
McJannet, R.N., Catherine – District 1
Mednick, R.N., Cheryl – American Red Cross
Mercer, Kevin – SD County Ambulance Association
Molloy, Bernie – SD County Fire Districts’ Association
Pearson, Danielle – County Paramedic Agencies Committee (Alt)
Rosenberg, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses’ Association
Scott, M.D., Christopher – SD County Medical Society
Wells, R.N., Christine – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators

Not in Attendance

Military Agencies
SD County Fire Districts’ Association
SD County Paramedic Association

In Attendance

Baudoin, Madeleine – AMR
Beckert, Mark – Carlsbad FD
Caplan, Gregg – Ambu Inc
Duffy, Jennifer – SMFD
Forney, Paul – AMR
Hayflich, Vanessa – Mercy Air/AirMethods
Lord, Scott – Mercy Air
Martin, Geoffrey – SWCC
Ruiz, Sal – AMR/CSA-17
Seabloom, Lynn – Oceanside FD
Sullivan, Don – AMR
Sumek, Caryn – HASDIC
Vilke, Gary – North Zone

County Staff

Beam, Jamie
Christison, Brian
Conover, Bill
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)
Koenig, M.D., Kristi
Lee, Chris
Pacheco, R.N., Cheryl
Parr, Andy
Schoenheit, R.N., Candy
Smith, PhD, Josh
Rogers, Cody
Tuteur, M.D., Jennifer
Velasco, Anjelica

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

Chara Cote, EMCC Vice-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 Stephen Abbott, seconded by Cathy McJanet to approve the June 25, 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:

- The science is evolving by the hour.
- Frequent updates to CDC – now looking at symptom-based strategies rather than testing-based strategy for determination of quarantine for healthcare workers.
- Conditions are changing very rapidly; we are pushing out information through our FAQs on our webpage.
- A lot of uncertainty and constantly changing information.
- Tricky virus, believe it is mutated to highly contagious form and can be transmitted before symptoms or in people with no symptoms.
- We are fortunate to have an existing infrastructure with advisory bodies such as EMCC, and the Health Services Capacity Task Force.
- There are still a lot of things being politicized, such as public masking, and threats against public health officials for trying to implement the science.
- Critical time right now as cases are rising across the state and country.
- Must stay focused on science, including the social sciences, such as the human factors/human behavior and crisis and emergency risk communication.
- The County is continuing with 3-prong strategy:
 - Flatten the curve via NPIs (3Ws: wash your hands, wear a mask, walk away).
 - Increase health system capacity via 3S surge system: stuff, staff, structure.
 - Manage the event. via an incident command system.

- County of San Diego is still seeing an increase in cases, but some flattening of the curve over the last few days. We are doing a bit better than our neighbors.
 - Continuing to increase in numbers
 - Creeping up close to 80% ICU capacity
 - Exceeded ECMO capacity intermittently
 - R-effective has crept up above 1, (1.11); need it to be below 1 to control the epidemic; even small increases can have dramatic effects.
- Imperial County is doing better, fewer transfers; had one to VA yesterday (NEW!)
- Concern re: now younger, healthier people may be contracting the virus and then spreading it to at-risk groups, possibly resulting in increased hospitalizations in the coming weeks, followed by deaths, which are a lagging indicator.
- CDC estimates 10x larger case numbers.
- No herd immunity until we get a safe and effective vaccine, we remain dependent on rigorous application of NPIs.
- Vaccine “cautiously optimistic” – will undergo rigorous testing; lots of promising news the past few days; Still not too early to think about priority groups for vaccination and what to do about those that refuse the vaccine.
- Flu season not too far off – going to be challenging.
- We have a LOSOP for paramedics to assist with vaccination.
- County is also doing the T3 project of Test, Trace, and Treat. Need testing to inform contact tracing and help contain the spread.
 - Exceeded ½ million tests; about 6-7% positivity rate (up from 2-3%, but better than other areas of the country)
 - Don't have enough case investigators, currently have 223; getting 97 new by Friday, and hiring 212 more. Currently have 237 contact tracers.

The following slides were shared:

- COVID-19 Percentage Positive
- Community Setting Outbreaks
- COVID-19 Hospital Census
- COVID-19 Daily Hospital Bed Census
- ICU Bed Occupancy and Capacity
- COVID-19 Confirmed Hospital Census
- Triggers Dashboard

B. Administrative Report – Andy Parr

1. The County will begin working with a Compliance Team. There is a number of institutions that are ignoring the order. The Compliance Team will reach out to those folks.
2. Working closely with the MOC and with the region's six partners for surge planning. A surge is anticipated as long as case counts continue to rise.
3. The EOC is in constant dialogue with CDPH regarding the guidance on schools. There will be a variance option for elementary schools, grades K-8, to open for in-person classes. The guidance associated with the variance is not yet forthcoming.

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 Order updates
- CoSD EMS Frequently Asked/Answered Questions (FAQs) 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 715 applications for renewal or initial certification for EMTs and paramedics. The State extended EMT and paramedic expiration dates through July 31. The State is not providing further extensions. About 600 EMTs are set to expire. Staff is ready for a possible surge.
- There is a standing waiver for the skills verification form for EMTs, which is good through the duration of the Governor’s emergency declaration. Other forms are still required.
- County EMS office remains busy with multiple existing and new contract, including the monitoring and support provided to the community in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Local Optional Scope of Practice for EMTs and paramedics to support the nasal swap collection for COVID-19 testing has been implemented throughout the county. A significant amount of the daily tests are collected by EMTs and paramedics, who are either supporting public health sites or stand-alone sites that the County Fire Authority has been staffing, supporting, and moving throughout the community. AMR and Mercy Medical are also supporting the testing sites.

C. MOC Report

No report.

VI. TRANSFER OF CARE (TOC) REPORTING – (Josh Smith, PhD)

Josh Smith presented on the TOC Dashboard. The TOC Dashboard has been migrated to a new Power BI platform. The new [TOC Dashboard](#) link is on the County EMS webpage and consists of eight pages for navigation:

- Pages 1-4 contain FirstWatch data.
- Pages 5-8 contain LEMSIS data.

VII. SYSTEM POLICY REVIEW (EMCC Advisory Position)

Some system policies will be brought back in September.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

IX. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

August is a dark month. The next EMCC meeting is planned to be held virtually and is scheduled for September 24, 2020. Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:20 AM.