



# County of San Diego

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## **EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE (EMCC) MEETING**

Paul Forney, Chair/ Dr. Chris Scott, Vice Chair  
c/o SD County Emergency Medical Services Office  
5560 Overland Ave, Rm 171, San Diego 92123

**Minutes**  
**Thursday, July 27, 2023**

### **Members Present**

Forney, Paul – SD County Ambulance Association  
Froelich, Dan – County Paramedic Agencies Committee  
Graydon, R.N., Cheryl – Emergency Nurses' Association  
Kahn, M.D., Christopher – District 4  
Lyons, R.N., Laura – American Red Cross  
Maxwell, Paul – SD County Paramedic Association  
Scott, M.D., Christopher – SD County Medical Society  
Sloane, M.D., Christian – District 5  
Walters, Sean – SD County Paramedic Association (Alt)  
Wells, R.N., Chris – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators' Committee  
Wiese, Lisha – Hospital Association of SD/Imperial Counties

### **In Attendance**

Levine, Saul – Sharp Memorial  
Lord, Scott – Mercy Air  
Ruiz, Sal – CSA 17 EMS Coordinator  
Sullivan, Don – AMR

### **Not in Attendance**

District 1  
District 2  
District 3  
Law Enforcement Agencies  
Military Agencies  
San Diego County Fire Chiefs' Association  
San Diego County Fire Districts' Association

### **County Staff**

Assof, Michael  
Collins, Jeff  
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)  
Mecham, Tony  
Meick, Tyler  
Parr, Andy  
Regier, Marc  
Smith, PhD, Josh  
Trousdale, Brad

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

- A. Paul Forney, EMCC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 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**

Disaster Planning Subcommittee Meeting – the request of a seat for Cal-AAMS California Association of Air Medical Services.

The San Diego County EMS office assembled a Disaster Planning Subcommittee meeting this morning prior to this meeting and presented to them a request from Cal-AAMS requesting to have a seat on the EMCC, and to consider the request as it pertains to the Bylaws. The Bylaws would have to be opened to make any adjustments and the EMCC would vote in September. If approved, then the request would start through the Board of Supervisors process.

**ACTION: A request was made for Cal-AAMS to present at the next September EMCC meeting.**

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### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**A motion was made by Dr. Chris Scott, seconded by Dan Froelich to approve the June 22, 2023 EMCC minutes. Motion carried.**

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### IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### A. Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee – Dr. Chris Scott on behalf of Chara Cote, RN

- Received reports on multiple policies; no action items were considered.
- Discussion on Ambulance Diversion policy.

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

Did not meet. Will meet after EMCC today.

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

- The Disaster Planning Subcommittee met and will take the request of a seat for Cal-AAMS back to the group. Will bring back the decision at the September EMCC meeting.
- Burn surge scenario tabletop exercises.
- Pediatric surge tabletop exercises to prepare for full scale exercise in June/July 2024 and looking for final dates.
- Statewide exercise on trauma burns and possible chemical has moved from November to February/March 2024.
- Looking at additional pediatric disaster emergency preparedness courses for our constituents.

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### V. COUNTY REPORT

#### A. Administrative Report – Andy Parr, EMS Administrator

- The Comprehensive Base Station Hospital and Trauma Catchment Area Consultant

As part of the ongoing endgame process for this work, a survey was open to all stakeholders, including field providers, emergency department staff, agency administrators, specialty care centers, and the general public. The survey closed on June 30 and the comments received will be informative to our contractor team.

This survey, along with other research and stakeholder input will assist in the formulation of 6 different models for us to compare as models for the future of EMS in San Diego County. The Consultant will also be looking at the Trauma Center Catchment Area Map to assure that Trauma Centers receive an optimal balance of Trauma calls at each center. Additional information and timelines are posted on the County EMS webpage.

- Policies and Protocols: The 2023-2024 protocols went live on July 1, 2023. In total, we had (25) protocols that were updated during this cycle and initiated (2) pilot programs. A few notable changes were:
  - TXA LOSOP approval for significant traumatic hemorrhage and post-partum hemorrhage
  - Implementing the FAST-ED stroke severity score
  - Addition of i-gel supraglottic airway devices
  - Increased ketamine dosage for pain management
  - Buprenorphine pilot program
  - Extracorporeal Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (ECPR) pilot program
- EMS Mobile App: The EMS Mobile App was launched in May as a browser-based application that works on any device with an internet connection and web browser. We are continuously updating the content and have recently added the following:
  - New policies and protocols that went into effect on July 1
  - FAST-ED assessment tool
  - ECPR pilot program hospitals and information
  - Recent Pearls from PAC

EMS Mobile App: Home ([sandiegocounty.gov](http://sandiegocounty.gov))

- 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 that recently closed. 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. These proposed changes are expected to be before the EMS Commission this Fall.
- 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 as well as reminders of when a public comment period is coming to an end.
  - “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
  - The following draft policies are currently posted for public comment:
    - S-TBD First Responder Inventory
    - P-305 Paramedic Accreditation/Reaccreditation
- Current Medication Shortages: County EMS is aware of multiple medication shortages including ipratropium bromide, albuterol, dextrose and activated charcoal. Additional information and guidance on these medication shortages can be found on the homepage of our website. Also, a reminder 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. The County EMS Office asks that all notifications for medication shortages are made via email to [emsnotifications@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:emsnotifications@sdcounty.ca.gov)
- 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.
- County EMS Office Holiday Closure Advisory: Labor Day, September 4th

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

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- A. S-836: Critical Care Transport Unit Inventory  
Policy S-836 went to Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee. This policy will be taken back to the Ambulance Association for their feedback. Take back internally, 30-day public comment period.
- B. T-460A: Trauma Decision Tree Algorithm  
Policy T-460A went to Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee for feedback. Internally working on it. Will go out for another 30-day public comment period. Identified some trends to incorporate into the policy. Will go through another 30-day public comment period, then back to Prehospital/Hospital.
- C. P-8XX: First Responder Inventory  
Policy P-8XX is a new policy; a combination of four separate policies. Currently on a 30-day public comment period which will end in two weeks.
- D. S-882: Emergency Medical Dispatch  
No new updates. Internal work continues.
- E. S-XXX: LEMSA Data Use and Standards  
No new updates. Internal work continues.
- F. S-400: Management of Controlled Drugs on ALS Units  
This policy is currently with County Counsel for further review. Then will likely go for another 30-day public comment period.
- G. S-416: Supply and Resupply of Designated EMS Agencies and Vehicles

This policy is currently with County Counsel for further review. Then will likely go for another 30-day public comment period.

H. P-305: Paramedic Accreditation/Reaccreditation

This policy is currently on a 30-day public comment period. It will conclude in the next two weeks.

**ACTION: A request was made to receive a report on the PrePAC process in September. EMS Coordinator Michael Assof will send the QAQI Plan document to the committee in advance and will present on it at the September meeting.**

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## VII. REPORTS

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A. Base Hospital/Trauma Catchment Review

An update was provided 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 [Community Paramedicine Flow Chart](#)
- Community Paramedicine work continues. The goal is to get the application to State EMSA in early September. Next steps are to identify agencies that are interested and to identify which sections of community paramedicine has those agencies interested in.
- Advisory Council meeting will be held this Friday where new policies will be discussed.
- Started a community paramedicine work policy workshop.
- August will be last meeting to get all policies and protocols through.

C. Data Analysis of Diversion Policy

Sr Epidemiologist Josh Smith presented on the [Data Analysis of Diversion Policy](#)

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## VIII. OLD BUSINESS

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A. EMCC Meeting Public Comment

The process for giving public comments is difficult if not in attendance. County EMS is working with leadership and County Counsel to look at some technology on how to receive public comments and be identifiable and recordable. County EMS staff will circle back with EMCC on how best to handle that when the need can be matched with technology.

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## IX. NEW BUSINESS

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A. The Community Paramedicine Progress Report

EMS Coordinator Tyler Meick shared the [Policy S-010 Emergency Department Ambulance Diversion Timeline](#)

**ACTION: A request was made to resend the Policy S-010 memo for a trial period. EMS Administrator Andy Parr will look at it internally.**

B. Sunset Review

A sunset evaluation occurs on a scheduled basis, every four (4) years, to determine effectiveness of the committee and a need for its continued existence.

**A motion was made to continue the Emergency Medical Care Committee. Motion was approved by consensus.**

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## X. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

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The month of August is dark. The next EMCC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 28, 2023 at 9:30 am in person at the County Operations Center – 5560 Overland Ave, Room 171. Meeting adjourned at 11:25.