



# 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](http://www.SanDiegoCountyEMS.com)

**ANDREW (ANDY) PARR**  
EMS ADMINISTRATOR  
Deputy Director, Departmental Operations  
(619) 285-6429

## **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, September 23, 2021**

#### **Members Present**

Brainard, Criss – SD County Fire Chiefs' Association  
Carlson, R.N., Sharon – Hospital Association of SD/Imperial (Alt)  
Chote, R.N., Chara – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators  
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  
Maxwell, Paul – SD County Paramedic Association  
McJannet, R.N., Catherine – District 1  
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  
Uppenkamp, R.N., Tina – American Red Cross (Alt)

#### **In Attendance**

Beckert, Mark – Carlsbad Fire  
Chandler, Craig – Stryker  
Dotson, Melody – AMR  
Donofrio-Odmann, Joelle – RCHSD/SDFA  
Duffy, Jennifer – SMFD  
Farcas, M.D., Andra – UCSD EMS Fellow  
Forney, Paul – AMR  
Garibay, Albert – Barona Fire  
Logan, Drew – Alvarado Hospital  
Lord, Scott – Mercy Air  
Meick, Tyler – Reach Air  
Murphy, Mary – North County FPD  
Pearson, Danielle – Chula Vista FD  
Pierce, Jodi – SDFD  
Rauto-Shin, Roxanne – Vista Fire  
Stauffer, Kim – SDFD  
Sumek, Caryn – HASDIC  
Timmons, Lance – American Red Cross

#### **Not in Attendance**

District 3  
Military Agencies

#### **County Staff**

Abedin, Sanaa  
Cavanaugh, Adria  
Christison, Brian  
Collins, Jeff  
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)  
Gall, R.N., Jessica  
Koenig, M.D., Kristi  
Martin, Adelver  
McDonald, M.D., Eric  
Moog, Jill  
Parr, Andy  
Pitner, Jaime  
Rogers, Cody

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

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- A. Brian Covell, EMCC Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.
  - B. The group skipped the Pledge of Allegiance as the meeting was virtual.
  - C. In lieu of introductions, attendance was captured online.
  - D. An announcement was made introducing Tina Uppenkamp as the new alternate member to the EMCC, representing American Red Cross, Seat 2.
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## **II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ PETITIONS**

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Melody Dotson, UCSD Base Hospital Nurse Coordinator, shared information regarding upcoming construction at UCSD Hillcrest and La Jolla locations commencing soon. The road closures will affect employees and EMS routing. Maps of the emergency vehicle routes were shared.

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## **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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**A motion was made by Dan Froelich, seconded by Dr. Chris Scott to approve the July 22, 2021 minutes. Motion carried.**

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## **IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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### **A. Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee – Brian Covell, RN**

The group met and discussed Policy P-405 Communication Failure. This policy will require additional work including language updates.

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

Did not meet.

### **C. Disaster Planning Subcommittee – Sharon Carlson, RN**

Did not meet. The Annex D Mass Casualty Plan is in the final draft stage. Everyone who participated in the rewrite was appreciated.

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## **V. COUNTY REPORTS**

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### **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.

A video of a [COVID-19 Treatment Success Story](#) from the County News Center was shared, featuring the EMCC Chair, Fire Chief Frank Parra.

### **B. Administrative Report – Andy Parr, EMS Administrator**

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
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transition for the EMS Office. The San Diego County EMS Office is administratively housed as a Division under San Diego County Fire.

2. Flu: The Flu Season is upon us. The “PHO Flu Order” is evergreen and is in force through the designated influenza season (November 1 – March 31). The flu letter requires, among other things, that healthcare personnel (including EMS Credentialed Personnel) wear a mask in patient care areas if they choose to not be vaccinated for the flu. As a reminder, the “Jury Duty letter” has been discontinued, as any jury summons can be deferred for any reason anytime.
3. Assess and Refer: In response to the latest COVID surge, P-801 response modification and Assess and Refer options have been re-activated. If you would like to exercise either of these options, please review the technical memorandums and EMS notification requirements at [www.SanDiegoCountyEMS.com](http://www.SanDiegoCountyEMS.com).
4. Procurements: County EMS encourages interested parties to register at the County’s BuyNet website to receive procurement information as it is released. There are instructions posted on our website. Upcoming procurements include:
  - RFQ for AED site management (Closed on 8/20)
  - RFP for Evaluation of Base Station System and Trauma Catchment area designation (anticipated release November 2021)
  - RFP for Paramedic Ambulance Services for CSA 17 (anticipated release November 2021)
5. EMSA waivers extended through December 31: 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 were extended from September to conclude on December 31, 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 and COVID sample collection efforts – the San Diego EMS Office has submitted our request to continue this important work.

6. 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.

7. Capacity Plan: The All-Hazard Health Service Capacity Management Plan is currently at a Level 1 Full 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.
8. SART Proclamation: The Board of Supervisors recognized the Sexual Assault Response Team program for their 30-year anniversary providing services to the County of San Diego. They presented a Declaration making August 31, 2021 SART Day.
9. LEMSIS Updates: The County EMS Elite schematron and data dictionary have been finalized and distributed to third party PCR vendors. Please note requirements to accept 3rd party data on or before November 1, 2021. Any agency that would like to adopt the no-cost-to-you LEMSIS ePCR platform should contact County EMS staff to begin that conversation.
10. 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 858 area code number, and we will not get those call back messages any longer. (619-588-0397)
  - i. **EMS Data Presentation – Sanaa Abedin**

A [Surveillance Presentation](#) was shared with the group. Currently on a downward trend for COVID. Decline in hospitalization rate. EMS system stress indicators - trigger levels are at a decreased rate. ED volumes elevated compared to last year. Latest surge slowing and the system is currently stable. Continue to keep an eye on trends.
  - ii. **EMCC Membership – Andy Parr, EMS Administrator**

Membership appointments are now processed much more quickly. If you are expired, we cannot make any moves/changes until you update your term. Can contact Nicole del Toro.
  - iii. **Recent Board Action – Andy Parr, EMS Administrator**

The Board of Supervisors will have a few EMS items come before them in the coming months: 10/5 is the second hearing in the dissolution of CSA-69, 10/19 is the Spare Wheel Exemption and a housekeeping item to administratively move the EMS fee schedule from HHSA to its own section.

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## VI. SYSTEM POLICY REVIEW (EMCC Advisory Position) – Jaime Pitner

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### A. Local Optional Scope of Practice (LOSOP) application for Immunization and COVID-19

Has been extended through December 31 which allows for additional applications to be submitted. Additionally, our application has been recommended for approval by the EMS

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Commission. Once EMSA approves our application, the LOSOP will continue for three years before needing to renew the approval.

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## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

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

The work continues internally on both the County Service Area 17 RFP and also the Base Hospital Trauma Catchment Area RFP. Will remain as a standing item on the agenda.

### **B. AB 1544: Community Paramedicine or Triage to Alternate Destination Act (Bernie Molloy, Fire Chief)**

The AB1544 Advisory Group has completed their meetings on reviewing the proposed policy through EMSA. EMSA submitted the regulatory packet on September 9 to the California Health and Human Services for their review and approval, then will move on to the Office of Administrative Law and will begin the 45-day public comment process in early October. The hope is that the completed policy will go to the EMS Commission during the March 2022 meeting, which will allow us to work on programs by December 2022. By next year, should see some programs happening throughout the state and hopefully in San Diego.

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## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

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No new business.

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## **IX. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT**

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The next EMCC meeting is scheduled on Thursday, October 28, 2021 via Zoom. Meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM.