



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, September 28, 2023

Members Present

Calderwood, Michael – SD County Fire Chiefs’ Association
Chote, R.N., Chara – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators’
Davis, Sgt., Michael – Law Enforcement Agencies
Forney, Paul – SD County Ambulance Association
Graydon, R.N., Cheryl – Emergency Nurses’ Association
Jordan, Jonathan – SD County Fire Districts’ Association
Kahn, M.D., Christopher – District 4
Murphy, Mary – County Paramedic Agencies Committee (Alt)
Scott, M.D., Christopher – SD County Medical Society
Uppenkamp, Tina – American Red Cross (Alt)
Walters, Sean – SD County Paramedic Association (Alt)
Wiese, Lisha – Hospital Association of SD/Imperial Counties

In Attendance

Clyons, Jeff – SDFRD
Cochran, Jennifer – Santee/Lakeside Fire
Fay, Ross – CAL-AAMS
Hayflich, Vanessa – Mercy Air
Henriquez, Jerry – All Town Ambulance
Krimston, Josh – SD County Paramedic Assoc.
Lopez, Brent – Reach Air Medical
Lord, Scott – Mercy Air
Orca, Daniel – All Town Ambulance
Pearson, Nate – Carlsbad FD
Ruiz, Sal – CSA 17 EMS Coordinator
Sullivan, Don – AMR
Vithalani, Veer – Palomar Health
Zimmerman, Stephanie – Reach Air

Not in Attendance

District 1
District 2
District 3
District 5
Military Agencies

County Staff

Assof, Michael
Christison, Brian
Collins, Jeff
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)
Haidari, Tareq
Parr, Andy
Trousdale, Brad

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

- A. Paul Forney, EMCC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. A quorum was declared.
- B. The group recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. An announcement was made introducing newest member Michael Bojanowski representing American Red Cross, and replacing Laura Lyons.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ PETITIONS

There were not public comments or petitions.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Chris Scott, seconded by Cheryl Graydon to approve the July 27, 2023 EMCC minutes. Motion carried.

IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee – Chara Cote, RN

Did not meet.

B. Education and Research Subcommittee – Cheryl Graydon, RN

Did not meet.

C. Disaster Planning Subcommittee – Lisha Wiese

- Burn surge annex – doing tabletop exercises.
- Pediatric surge – focusing on if UCSD Burn Center gets overwhelmed, how could the other hospitals in the area help.
- Upcoming exercises next year on surge, trauma burn, and possible chemical.

V. PRESENTATION FROM CAL-AAMS

Ross Fay, CMTE, Executive Director for California Association of Air Medical Services (CAL-AAMS), provided the following presentation: [Representing The Air Medical Transport Community](#)

ACTION: The Disaster Operations Subcommittee will review and report back at the October EMCC meeting.

VI. COUNTY REPORT

A. Administrative Report – Andy Parr, EMS Administrator

- County EMS staff: Brad Trousdale was hired as the new EMS Specialist; Tareq Haidari was hired as the new Program Coordinator.
- Protocols: The County EMS Office is pleased to announce the 2024-2025 EMS Treatment Protocol Revision cycle is underway. Last year, we trialed a more efficient protocol revision process that allowed for greater participation from the EMS community. This process included an online solution where all system participants could easily submit their comments.
- EMS Mobile App: The EMS Mobile App was launched in May. This app, is a browser-based application that works on any device with an internet connection and web browser. We are continuously updating the content and recently added additional information in the References section.
EMS Mobile App [link](#)
- EMS Website: The County EMS website was recently updated to help visitors navigate the website more efficiently and improve the overall user experience. The homepage was reorganized to include buttons for quick access to some of our important services: credentialing, permitting, and the EMS system. The main menu at the top was updated and now has links to all our internal pages. Lastly, we created a new page called EMS System Overview, which provides a summary of our local system and the contact information for all our fire agencies, permitted ambulance providers, and hospitals.
- Unified Service Area (USA) to Ambulance Service Area (ASA) Transition: In 2020, following study, community engagement, and a competitive procurement, the Unified Service Area began paramedic ambulance service operations. The Unified Service Area (or USA) dramatically improved the level of service throughout most of the rural reaches of our county. At the direction of the Board of Supervisors, this service area is transitioning to the San Diego County Fire Protection District Ambulance Service Area, or ASA, with the County Fire team who are assuming all administrative and operational responsibilities for ambulance service in this area. The ASA will also provide 911 exclusive service in the Ramona and Borrego Springs subzones. This operational change is already in transition and County Fire will assume exclusive responsibility of the ASA as of October 1, 2023.
- Immunization Administration Clarification:

The County EMS Office has received several inquiries regarding paramedic-administered immunizations. While the EMS Office continues to support these EMS-based public health initiatives, the current statutory language prohibits paramedics (or EMTs) from administering immunizations without an accompanying emergency declaration. Unfortunately, this also limits occupational medicine-related vaccination drives where on-duty staff could receive a vaccination from a licensed paramedic and not a nurse. Since the COVID-related Governor's Executive Order concluded on February 28, 2023, the ability for EMS providers to administer immunizations ended, and existing scope of practice rules embedded in state law returned to full force. The LEMSA continues to advocate for a legislative solution to this limitation.

- Buprenorphine Pilot Program: The County EMS Office continues to make progress in launching the Prehospital Buprenorphine Pilot Program. As part of this program, a limited number of pilot agencies will participate by administering prehospital Buprenorphine to opioid use disorder and opioid withdrawal patients. Pilot agencies will also connect these patients with MAT treatment via a substance use navigator (or SUN).

The County EMS Office is also pleased to announce that AMR (in the CSA-17) and San Diego County Fire will be among the first agencies to participate in the pilot program. We are working to finalize training schedules and will be launching these programs in the near future.

- Public Comment Process:
 - 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

Public Comment Page: [Online Public and Stakeholder Comment Submission \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/publiccomment)

- Current Medication Shortages: County EMS is aware of multiple medication shortages including:
 - ketamine,
 - ipratropium bromide,
 - albuterol,
 - activated charcoal

Additional information on these medication shortages, as well as mitigation strategies, can be found on our new Medication Shortages page.

Medication Shortages Page: [Medication Shortages \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/medication-shortages)

ACTION: Andy to have a discussion with PPHR regarding medication shortages and will report back.

- County EMS Office Holiday Closure Advisory:
 - Veterans Day, Friday, November 10th
 - Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 23rd
 - Day after Thanksgiving, Friday, November 24th
 - Christmas Day, Monday, December 25th
 - New Years Day, Monday January 1st, 2024

VII. SYSTEM POLICY REVIEW (EMCC Advisory Position)

There were no policies for review.

VIII. REPORTS

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

The EMS Office submitted the application packet to EMSA. EMSA has 30 days to review and comment. No feedback received yet. San Diego Fire Rescue has applied to participate in the Case Management High Utilizer option. They are the first and only applicant at this time. Continue to work with multiple agencies and stakeholders to expand the Triage Alternate Destination Program. The Advisory Council will continue to meet. The provisional policies and protocols are posted on the EMS website.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. EMCC Meeting Public Comment

The process for giving public comments continues to be available by sending in petitions/public comments to Nicole del Toro prior to the meeting. Anything received will be included in the record. Currently not contemplating a call-in option. This process also applies to the EMCC Subcommittee meetings.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. The Community Paramedicine Progress Report

This update was provided earlier under agenda item VIII. Reports, B.

B. Presentation on County EMS QA/QI Process

EMS Coordinator Michael Assof shared the following presentation: [EMS System QI Overview](#)

Group discussion and Q and A followed.

ACTION: County EMS will provide a different forum to allow for discussion and Q and A.

XI. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next EMCC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 9:30 am in person at the County Operations Center – 5560 Overland Ave, Room 171. Meeting adjourned at 11:00.