



County of San Diego

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE (EMCC) Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee Meeting Zoom Meeting

Chara Cote, R.N., Chair / Brian Covell, R.N., Vice Chair

Minutes

Thursday, January 13, 2022

IN ATTENDANCE

Members

Cote, RN, Chara – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators
Covell, RN, Brian – District 2
Froelich, Dan – County Paramedic Agencies Committee
Parra, Frank – SD Fire Chiefs' Association
Scott, MD, Christopher – SD County Medical Society

County Staff

Abedin, Sanaa
Cavanaugh, Adria
Christison, Brian
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)
Erickson, Kirk
Gall, R.N., Jessica
Martin, Adelver
Parr, Andy
Pitner, Jaime
Rogers, Cody
Smith, PhD, Josh
Stepanski, Barbara

Agency Representatives

Clyons, Jeffrey – SD Fire Rescue
Dotson, RN, Melody – AMR
Forney, Paul – AMR
Graydon, RN Cheryl – ENA
Hinton, William – Mercy Air
Jagielinski, Jakub – CAL FIRE
Meick, Tyler – Reach Air
Mercer, Kevin – AMR
Pearson, Danielle – Vista FD
Pearson, Nate – Carlsbad FD
Rauto-Shin, Roxanne – Vista FD
Seabloom, Lynne – Oceanside FD
Smith, Ray – CVFD
Stauffer, Kimberly – SDFR
Sullivan, Don – AMR
Zimmerman, Stephanie – Mercy Air

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- A. Chara Cote, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.
 - B. In lieu of introductions, attendance was captured online.
 - C. There were no announcements.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dan Froelich, seconded by Frank Parra, to approve the November 4, 2021 EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting minutes. Motion carried.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

There were no public comments or petitions.

IV. STAFF REPORT – Jaime Pitner

- Procurements: County EMS encourages interested parties to register with the County's BuyNet webportal to receive procurement information as soon as it is released. There are instructions posted on our website. Upcoming procurements include:
 - RFP for Evaluation of Base Station System and Trauma Catchment area designation (upcoming)
 - RFP for Paramedic Ambulance Services for CSA 17 (Note: That due to unavoidable delays in the RFP approval process CoEMS, with the support of CoDPC, has extended the CSA-17 contract with AMR until July 1, 2022. However, CoEMS expects the CSA-17 RFP to be released in January or February of 2022.
- EMSA waivers come to a close MARCH 31, 2022- note the updated date!: 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 March 31, 2022, including for training courses that began prior to this date.

- EMS Protocol Review for 2022: The EMS team is completing the review of protocol revisions for 2022. Thanks to all those who submitted suggested revisions. The draft revisions are expected to be finalized by February and provided for education in April. Implementation of the revised protocols is scheduled for July 1, 2022.
- 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.
- LEMSIS Updates: The County EMS Elite schematron and data dictionary have been distributed to specific third-party PCR vendors. LEMSIS staff have been working closely with 3rd party vendors to prepare for this data integration. The integration pilot project is nearing completion, and the integration of other agencies will begin immediately after that project is finished. EMS agencies may bypass the process of third-party integration by joining LEMSIS and the no-cost Elite PCR.
- Hospital Data Reporting: As the EMS system is extremely stressed, it is important for hospitals to accurately report daily counts of ED Volume, ED Boarders, ICU Patients, and Bed Availability. These should be reported into the LEMSIS Resource Bridge Module. We are also reminding hospitals to please fill out the Hospital Capacity Survey once a week so that we can track any surge beds you have in place. For questions or assistance on data reporting, please contact Joshua Smith.
- Base Hospital Assignment Update – ON HOLD: We thank all agencies for returning unit updates to us. Because of the current COVID surge, we are putting this update project on hold. We hope to have more information available in the next few months.

V. POLICIES FOR REVIEW (Jaime Pitner)

There were no policies for review.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Local Optional Scope of Practice Application for Immunization and COVID-19 Testing (Jaime Pitner)

EMSA has approved two County EMS Local Optional Scope of Practice requests to allow paramedics and EMTs to collect viral test samples and to administer influenza and COVID-19 vaccines. Subsequently have received approval to expand the age groups to include children ages 5-12 years. Also, our renewal was approved this month for the Unified Optional Scope of Practice for Qualified Transport Providers and is good for another three years.

B. Merging of Policies P-806, P-807, P-834 (Jaime Pitner)

Dan Froelich and others were thanked for providing recommendations from CPAC and others, to bring these policies together. County EMS is now looking at combining these into one large policy.

C. S-010 ED Ambulance Diversion – Update

Effective 0800 January 13, 2022, hospital-initiated emergency department ambulance diversion is deactivated for 14 days. See memo [here](#). This was implemented with input through the Health Services Capacity Task Force.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- Duty officers were thanked.
- There was group discussion on the alert mechanism that has recently gone out about the impacts of the 911 system and the release of ambulances, and how it is affecting hospital staff and 911 calls.
- MED CC is a single channel that connects all of our private ambulance providers. The duty officer can also send messaging to ensure the private providers have it on and are paying attention to it. It is a great tool/resource.

VIII. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2022 at 9:30 AM. Meeting adjourned at 9:53 am.