



# County of San Diego

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## 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) Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee Meeting Zoom Meeting

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

### Minutes

**Thursday, January 14, 2021**

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## IN ATTENDANCE

### Members

Cote, R.N., Chara – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators  
Covell, R.N., Brian – District 2  
Froelich, Dan – County Paramedic Agencies Committee  
Mercer, Kevin – SD County Ambulance Association  
Scott, M.D., Christopher – SD County Medical Society  
Wells, R.N., Chris (Alt) – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators

### Agency Representatives

Graydon, R.N., Cheryl – Emergency Nurses Association  
Hayflich, Vanessa – Mercy Air/AirMethods  
Kahn, M.D., Chris – UCSD  
Lord, Scott – Mercy Air

### County Staff

Christison, Brian  
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)  
Gall, R.N., Jessica  
Hrubvocak, Wendy  
Martin, Adelver  
Pacheco, R.N., Cheryl  
Pitner, Jaime  
Rogers, Cody  
Schoenheit, R.N., Candy

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## I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chara Cote, EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee Chair called the meeting to order at 9:31 AM. There were no introductions or announcements made. Attendance was captured online via the chat box.

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## II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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**A motion was made by Chris Scott, seconded by Dan Froelich to approve the November 12, 2020 EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting minutes. Motion carried.**

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### **III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS**

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There was a discussion regarding the recent urgent policy adjustments to address the recent COVID-19 pandemic surge.

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### **IV. STAFF REPORT – Jaime Pitner**

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#### **A. EMT Renewals – submit early**

In the spring of odd-numbered years the County EMS Credentialing Team is inundated with EMT renewal applications. Agencies are asked to work with their EMT staff to make sure their applications are submitted early to avoid the rush. As a reminder, EMT Skills Verifications are waived for the Coronavirus emergency, making the application process that much easier.

#### **B. Vaccination**

Flu: The “PHO Flu Order” is evergreen, and runs 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.

COVID-19: Vaccination for EMS first responders is well underway. San Diego County Fire Authority and San Diego County Operational Area are deploying a cohesive plan with County Public Health to distribute, administer, and track vaccinations for all front-line medical first responders (fire-based and private EMS) in San Diego County. Also, several fire/EMS agencies are working separately with County Public Health to receive and distribute vaccine for their employees. In addition, EMS-credentialed first responders may attend County Public Health vaccine events. Staff should check with their agency for appointment signup information or at the County Public Health vaccination information page at:

[www.coronavirus-sd.com/vaccine](http://www.coronavirus-sd.com/vaccine)

#### **C. County EMS Duty Officer: The San Diego County EMS Duty Officer has a new phone number for notifications. The new EMS Duty Officer phone number is: 619-588-0397.**

#### **D. County Ambulance Diversion**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the EMS Duty Officer will review complete ambulance diversion requests within the overall system status at the time OR may determine that an ED is saturated and cannot safely continue to receive patients. The EMS Duty Officer may initiate County Ambulance Diversion for a 4-hour period. County Ambulance Diversion may be extended or completed following subsequent EMS Duty Officer consultation with the affected ED.

#### **E. Change in Trauma Patient Age Limit for transport to Rady**

In an effort to preserve critical healthcare resources in the county’s acute-care

hospitals, the County of San Diego EMS Medical Director has issued a temporary change in the identified pediatric trauma center patient definition. This strategy is to ensure the maximum of adult critical care resources are available during this pandemic surge.

F. Recent COVID-19 policy adjustments

Offload to Waiting Room:

Effective January 1, 2021 at 0700, 9-1-1 system EMS providers (ALS or BLS) may transfer their patients to the ED waiting area with notification to the triage nurse for patients meeting ALL the following Transfer to ED Waiting Area criteria:

Pediatric Patient Transportation Destination Directive:

Like the Trauma patients aged 14-18 destination directive, the Medical Director has issued a temporary change to ensure the maximum of adult critical care resources are available during this pandemic surge.

CCT Interfacility Transport for Patients on High Flow Nasal Cannula (HFNC):

To meet immediate CCT transfer needs during the COVID-19 pandemic, several options are available for patients treated with HFNC. These modalities can be used to bridge patients during transport to the receiving facility where HFNC can be resumed.

G. Capacity Plan: The All-Hazard Health Service Capacity Management Plan is currently at a Level 1 Full Activation (the highest level). EMS Epidemiologists continue to carefully monitor Healthcare, Hospital and EMS system metrics in SD county and regionally.

H. The EMCC Education and Research Subcommittee will reconvene in February 10, 2021

The Education and Research Subcommittee will meet quarterly, or more frequently, as needed. This reactivated group will focus on the current Community Paramedic pilot program and advising County EMS on the recently signed-AB 1544.

I. COVID-19 EMS Waiver Reporting Reminders for P-801 and Assess and Refer policies

Under the EMS Medical Director's waiver for P-801 response adjustments and the Assess and Refer option, beginning October 1, 2020, agencies exercising these waivers need to submit monthly reports. Agencies that have implemented one or more of these operational standards shall provide end-of-the-month CAD reports and updates on EMS response or assess and refer modifications to County EMS. Reports for the prior month shall be due on the 15th of the following month.

J. Nonoperational County owned EMS radios are still being recalled

The County owned EMS radio recall is ongoing. If you have a radio that is no longer working, or you just need more information, please contact the PHPR/EMS Duty Officer at [SDEMSSDO@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:SDEMSSDO@sdcounty.ca.gov).

- K. Policies and Protocols: County EMS is gearing up to restart the remaining reviews, with an anticipated July 1, 2021 implementation date.

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## V. POLICIES FOR REVIEW

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- P-305: Paramedic Accreditation/Reaccreditation (Jaime Pitner)

This policy was brought to the subcommittee per the request of Dan Froelich for review.

A proposal was made by Dan Froelich to make changes and bring forward through the process.

**ACTION: A request was made that Cheryl Pacheco send the group an editable copy to work on. Anyone who is interested in helping Dan work on changes can email Nicole del Toro.**

- P-801: Designation of Providers of Advanced Life Support Service – Ad hoc Committee Status Report (Dr. Chris Kahn)

The Ad hoc committee met and is close to the final draft. One foundational issue remains, which is the underlying authority. Will work with County EMS to set up one last meeting.

- S-010: Guidelines for Hospitals Requesting Ambulance Diversion – Ad hoc Committee Status Report (Dr. Chris Scott)

**A motion was made by Chris Scott, seconded by Dan Froelich to approve Policy S-010. Motion carried.**

- S-008: Interfacility Transfers – Levels of Care (Dr. Chris Scott)  
Long group discussion.

**A motion was made by Dan Froelich, seconded by Chris Scott to approve Policy S-008. Motion carried.**

- T-705: Trauma Catchment Service Area (Candy Schoenheit)

**A motion was made by Dan Froelich, seconded by Chris Scott to approve Policy T-705. Motion carried.**

- T-710: Designation of a Trauma Center (Candy Schoenheit)

**A motion was made by Dan Froelich, seconded by Chris Scott to approve Policy T-710. Motion carried.**

**ACTION: Candy Schoenheit will send the Level 1 Trauma Center Statement of Work to the group.**

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## VI. ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

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Meeting adjourned at 10:53 AM.

Next EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting is on February 11, 2021.