



County of San Diego

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE (EMCC)
Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee Meeting
Chara Cote, RN, Chair/ Christopher Scott, MD, Vice Chair
c/o SD County Emergency Medical Services Office
5560 Overland Ave, Rm 172, San Diego 92123
Thursday, October 12, 2023

Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE

Members

Cote, RN, Chara – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators
Forney, Paul – SD County Ambulance Association
Murphy, Mary – County Paramedic Agencies Committee (Alt)
Scott, MD, Christopher – SD County Medical Society

County Staff

Assof, Michael
Christison, Brian
Haidari, Tareq
Parr, Andy
Rogers, Cody
Trousdale, Brad

Agency Representatives

Clyons, Jeff – SD Fire Rescue
Jackson, Ennis – AMR/RCCP
Pearson, Nate – Carlsbad FD
Ruiz, Sal – CSA 17
Sullivan, Don – AMR

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Chara Cote, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:31 AM. A quorum was declared.
- There were no introductions.
- There were no announcements.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Chris Scott, seconded Mary Murphy to approve the July 13, 2023 EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting minutes. Motion carried.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

There were no public comments or petitions.

IV. COUNTY REPORT – Michael Assof, EMS Coordinator

- Health Services Capacity Plan Level: Plan Level 4 – Enhanced Surveillance; Southern California Fire Preparedness Level: Plan Level 2.
- The Comprehensive Base Station Hospital and Trauma Catchment Area Consultant: The County's consultant's work is ongoing. This work includes providing 6 different models for us to compare as models for the future of the EMS base hospital system 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 and other demographic updates for the catchment map. Additional information and timelines are posted on the County EMS webpage.

The next community engagement phase will include listening sessions on November 7-9. These sessions will be held in each of the Supervisorial Districts. Additional information will be distributed as details are finalized.

- Community Engagement Page: [Base Station Hospital & Trauma Catchment Review | Engage San Diego County](#)
 - CoSD EMS Informational Page: [Comprehensive Evaluation of the Base Hospital System and Trauma Center Catchment Area Designation \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)
 - Protocols: The 2024-2025 EMS Treatment Protocol Revision cycle concluded on October 1. A survey was posted online from September 1 – October 1 for the EMS community to provide feedback on treatment protocols. The survey received over 70 responses from various system participants ranging from EMTs to physicians.
The next step is to review the public comments and incorporate any revisions into draft protocols. The draft protocols will be presented at the Base Station Physicians' Committee or BSPPC in early 2024.
 - EMS Mobile App: The EMS Mobile App was launched in May. This is a browser-based application that works on any device with an internet connection and web browser. We are continuously updating the content in the References section and welcome any suggestion for new additions.
 - The EMS Mobile App received approximately 6,000 visits and 11,000 pageviews last month.
 - EMS Mobile App: [Home \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)
 - 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.
 - County EMS Fees and the next Fiscal Year: The EMS Office is currently working closely with the County's Emergency Services Administration Unit to review LEMSA fees. The fees being reviewed are personnel fees, specialty care fees and EMS permit fees. More information will be forthcoming as the analysis and calculations take shape. If you have questions or comments, please send those comments to EMSNotifications@sdcounty.ca.gov.
 - Upcoming State Paramedic Scope of Practice changes: The EMS Commission met in September and voted on a regulatory update to move TXA, ketorolac, ketamine, and IV acetaminophen from Local Optional Scope of Practice to basic scope, lowering the regulatory burden for LEMSAs adopting these treatment modalities.
The vote passed and the next step in the process is for the decision to go through the California Office of Administrative Law. The EMS Authority anticipates this process will take multiple months before the changes are finalized. As of now, these medications remain as Local Optional Scope of Practice and we will provide an update once the regulatory changes go into effect.
 - 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
- Public Comment Page: [Online Public and Stakeholder Comment Submission \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)
- Current Medication Shortages: County EMS is aware of multiple medication shortages and has issued guidance on albuterol, ketamine, ipratropium, albuterol, and 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)
- 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
- Buprenorphine Pilot Update: This program is a LOSOP and the plan is for it to be a pilot this year. Three pilot agencies were selected. The effectiveness of the three pilot agencies will be monitored. Went live on October 2. There are two agencies with three ambulances in this county - AMR and the CSA 17, and one unit in Escondido. A third pilot will be opened up with San Diego County Fire through CalFire.
- ECPR Pilot Program Update: This program started on July 1. Still have the three ECPR receiving centers currently with Scripps Memorial, La Jolla, Sharp Grossmont and Sharp Memorial. From July 1 – September 30, we have around 20 ECPR field identified cases. Half of the cases don't meet the criteria; the other half, the first few patients were cancelled this month. Since the launch, an ECPR Pilot Program website was created which is on the EMS Home Page.

V. POLICIES FOR REVIEW (Updates)

- S-836: Critical Care Transport Unit Inventory

A motion was made by Dr. Christopher Scott, seconded by Paul Forney to move Policy S-836 forward to the full EMCC. Motion carried.

- S-8XX: First Responder Inventory

A motion was made by Dr. Christopher Scott, seconded by Paul Forney to move Policy S-8XX forward to the full EMCC with addressing the discrepancy of amiodarone being required or optional during protocol cycle. Motion carried.

- P-305: Paramedic Accreditation/Reaccreditation

ACTION: EMS staff will take Policy P-305 back for further review.

- P-882: EMS Dispatch Policy (coming soon)

Policy P-882 will likely be posted for public comment soon and be placed on the next Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee agenda.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

VIII. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2023 at 9:30 am. Meeting adjourned at 10:36 am.