



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, October 14, 2021

IN ATTENDANCE

Members

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

County Staff

Christison, Brian
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)
Gall, R.N., Jessica
Martin, Adelver
Moog, Jill
Parr, Andy
Pitner, Jaime
Rogers, Cody
Schoenheit, Paige
Stepanski, Barbara

Agency Representatives

Beckert, Mark – Carlsbad FD
Jagielinski, Jakub – San Diego County Fire/CAL FIRE
Kahn, M.D., Chris – UCSD
Murphy, Mary – North County FPD
Rauto-Shin, Roxanne – Vista FD
Ruiz, Sal – CSA-17 EMS Coordinator
Stauffer, Kimberly – SDFR
Sullivan, Don – AMR

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- A. Brian Covell, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:33 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 Dr. Chris Scott, to approve the September 9, 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

- County EMS transition to the Public Safety Group: The transition from HHSA to PSG (County Fire) is organizationally complete but there is still more work to be done with budget coordination, program alignment and assimilation, and policy modification and development.
- Board Letter Watch: The Board of Supervisors will have a few EMS items come before them in the coming months:
 - 10/5 is another step in the dissolution of CSA-69,
 - 10/19 is the Spare Wheel Exemption and
 - on 10/19 and (11/2 Second Reading) there will be a housekeeping item to administratively move the EMS fee schedule from HHSA to PSG.
- Flu: 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, healthcare personnel (including EMS Credentialed Personnel) wear a mask in patient care areas if they choose to not be vaccinated for the flu.
- Assess and Refer/P-801 options available: 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 send your requests.
- Procurements: County EMS encourages interested parties to register with the County’s BuyNet web portal to receive procurement information as soon as it is released. There are instructions posted on our website. Upcoming procurements:
 - RFP for Evaluation of Base Station System and Trauma Catchment area designation (anticipated release is prior to the end of the calendar year)
 - RFP for Paramedic Ambulance Services for CSA 17 (anticipated release October/November2021)
- EMSA waivers come to a close December 31- 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 administrationAll of these emergency standards were extended from September to conclude on December 31, 2021, including for training courses that began prior to this date.
- New Ambulance Diversion policy in effect: The updated Ambulance Diversion policy (S-010) took effect 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 or remove any and all EDs when necessary – primarily for long offload delays or other signs that an ED is saturated to the point the EMS system is affected. Prior practice of routinely accepting incoming patients while on ED Diversion is no longer appropriate. When an ED is on Diversion, patients requesting specific facility requires the Base Hospital to agree that accepting a particular patient is in the best interests of that patient - a much higher bar than in the concluded ED Bypass policy.
- Capacity Plan: The All-Hazard Health Service Capacity Management Plan is currently at a Level 2 Escalated 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
- LEMSIS Updates: The County EMS Elite schematron and data dictionary have been finalized and distributed to specific third-party PCR vendors. LEMSA staff have been working closely with some of the larger 3rd party vendors to enable this data integration as soon as possible, hopefully before the end of the calendar year. EMS agencies may bypass the process of third-party integration by joining LEMSA and the no-cost Elite PCR.
- Transfer of Care: Reminder - the FirstWatch Transfer of Care button should only be pushed

when the patient has been transferred from the EMS agency to hospital personnel. The button should not be pushed when ambulance arrives at the hospital, which has been reported recently.

V. POLICIES FOR REVIEW

- P-405: Communication Failure (Jaime Pitner)

Additional language changes to Policy P-405 were suggested by the group.

The revised draft form was shared with the group. The group gave feedback and the form will receive additional internal work from EMS staff. All agencies are reminded to complete and submit the form for data purposes.

ACTION: Policy P-405 and the form will be brought back after the holidays, due to December being dark.

- S-480: Viral Specimen Collection and Vaccination Administration (Jaime Pitner)

A motion was made by Dan Froelich, seconded by Brian Covell, to move the Draft Policy S-480 forward to present to the full EMCC with the group's suggested changes and supporting documentation. Motion carried.

ACTION: A request was made by Dan Froelich to receive the application template from the State.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. EMSA Emergency Standards extension (Brian Christison)

The Executive Order of the Governor regarding EMS licensure, certification, and training ends on December 31, 2021.

- B. Local Optional Scope of Practice application for Immunization and COVID-19 Testing (Brian Christison)

The Local Optional Scope of Practice has now been reflected in the policy. No other updates.

- C. Transfer of Care Compliance (Josh Smith, PhD)
No update.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Protocol Clarification/Revision bulletin (Jaime Pitner)

A memo was sent out to all agencies from Dr. Kristi Koenig regarding 2021 protocol revisions and clarifications that will be effective October 18, 2021. The following were explained in detail:

- Clarifications for EMS protocols: P-117, S-123, S-126, and S-163
- Revisions for EMS protocols: S-101, and S-1336/S-166

- B. North Zone Tiered Dispatch Plan Update (Dr. Christian Sloan)
No update.

VIII. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

Next EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting will be moved to a new date and time: **November 4, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.** due to the Veteran's Day holiday. EMCC Education and Research Subcommittee meeting will follow at 10:30 a.m. Meeting adjourned at 11:01 AM.