



# County of San Diego

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
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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 Webex Meeting**

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

### Minutes

**Thursday, November 12, 2020**

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## **IN ATTENDANCE**

### Members

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

### County Staff

Cavanaugh, Adria  
Christison, Brian  
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)  
Falcon, Sebastian  
Gall, Jessica  
Hrubvock, Wendy  
Kenner-Bringer, Amelia  
Martin, Adelver  
Pacheco, RN, Cheryl  
Pitner, Jaime  
Rogers, Cody  
Smith, PhD, Josh

### Agency Representatives

Beckert, M – Carlsbad FD  
Hayflich, Vanessa – Mercy Air/AirMethods  
Kahn, M.D., Chris – UCSD  
Lord, Scott – Mercy Air

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## **I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chara Cote, EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 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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The October 8, 2020 EMCC Prehospital/Hospital minutes were approved by consensus.

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## III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

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Dan Froelich proposed bringing Policy P-305: Paramedic Accreditation/Reaccreditation, specifically the requirement of ACLS, to the next meeting.

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## IV. STAFF REPORT – Brian Christison

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- A. Flu: The Flu Season is almost upon us again. 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 Watch is available on the [www.coronavirus-sd.com](http://www.coronavirus-sd.com) website. The COVID-19 Watch is a weekly summary of statistical information on the COVID-19 Pandemic in San Diego.

TOC Compliance: Transfer of Care (TOC) times are one of the many metrics monitored 24/7 by County EMS to assure access to quality and timely care in our organized EMS delivery system. Over the last year, TOC compliance has decreased across the County, which reduces our ability to monitor system demand. Please remember that the paramedic and nurse should agree together to “push the button” either on the medic’s device or the emergency department computer. Increasing your TOC compliance is the best way to improve your publicly reported offload times since the unit ‘back in service’ time is used to calculate the offload time if the TOC Button is not pushed. Please note that EMS agencies using the County-provided ePCR do not need to push the TOC Button as that data is integrated directly from the PCR. These agencies will show up with a “LEMSIS” sign in place of the TOC Button.

San Marcos County EMS is pleased to welcome San Marcos Fire to the LEMSIS platform. They went live October 27<sup>th</sup>, and data is already flowing to the State!

Policies and Protocols: The 2019-2020 protocol review process was well underway when the COVID-19 Pandemic upended the process. As a review, The Treatment Protocol Task Force met November 15, 2019. This comprehensive discussion was followed by drafts over the winter months, and BSPC reviewed and approved multiple protocol updates in January and February. County EMS is gearing up to restart the remaining reviews, with an anticipated July 1, 2021 implementation date.

- B. Capacity Plan: The All-Hazard Health Service Capacity Management Plan is currently at a Level 1 Full Activation. EMS Epidemiologists are carefully monitoring the Healthcare and EMS system metrics. The current Plan Level is prominently posted on the EMS Section’s webpage at [SanDiegoCountyEMS.com](http://SanDiegoCountyEMS.com).

The Health Services Capacity Task Force held their annual meeting on Tuesday, September 27. All task force members, especially those on the Operational Core Group, are heartedly thanked for their continuing attendance and cooperation

- C. County EMS Duty Officer: The San Diego County EMS Duty Officer has a new phone number for notifications. All notifications will be processed through the San Diego County Monte Vista Interagency Command Center (MVICC) instead of the County's call center.

The new EMS Duty Officer phone number is: 619-588-0397.

In October 2020, the EMS Duty Officer received 11 calls.

- 7 calls were regarding offload delays
- An exposure report, a hospital Internal Disaster event, and a communication problem accounted for 3 calls

All agencies are recommended to save the new Duty Office phone number.

- D. EMS Plan Data Requests: It is EMS Plan data submission time. All EMS agencies have (or will be receiving) data submission forms. Thank you to all the agencies that have submitted the requested data. This data is necessary and is required before the LEMSA can submit the EMS plan to EMSA. Any questions regarding this data request please contact EMS Specialist Gary Laugen.
- E. Non-operational County owned EMS radios need to come home. All non-operational County owned EMS 800mhz radios are being recalled by the County. Please contact the EMS radio desk at 619-285-6405 or the PHPR/EMS Duty Officer at [www.SDEMSSDO@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:www.SDEMSSDO@sdcounty.ca.gov)
- F. The EMCC Education and Research Subcommittee will reconvene in January. The Emergency Medical Care Committee has three subcommittees: Prehospital/Hospital, Disaster Preparedness, and Education and Research. Each Board of Supervisors-appointed EMCC member also sits on one or more of these important subcommittees. 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.

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## V. POLICIES FOR REVIEW

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

The Ad hoc committee met two weeks ago. Good progress has been made. Final versions almost completed. There continues to be an underlying authority issue that will be discussed at the full EMCC. Hoping to be ready to bring back in January for the subcommittee's review.

- S-010: Guidelines for Hospitals Requesting Ambulance Diversion (Dr. Chris Scott)

This policy had previously been approved to move forward to the full EMCC. Received additional requested changes and there are only two verbiage changes.

**ACTION: A motion was made by Chris Scott, seconded by Brian Covell to re-approve with the minor verbiage changes and move forward to the full EMCC. Motion carried by consensus.**

**ACTION: County EMS to ensure everyone receives this final version in advance for review and let them know it will come back in January.**

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

Long group discussion regarding timely availability of CCT and improving it; 9-1-1 being used as an interfacility transport; whether transfer agreements will be honored or not. A suggestion was made to formalize a policy in a pre-arranged transfer agreement, that every attempt is made to honor that.

**ACTION: Dr. Chris Scott will make suggested verbiage changes, will send out well in advance to the group, and take suggestions for discussion at the January subcommittee meeting.**

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## VI. ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

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Meeting adjourned at 10:24 AM.

Next EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting is on January 14, 2021.