



# 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, November 4, 2021**

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### **IN ATTENDANCE**

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#### **Members**

Cote, RN, Chara – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators  
Covell, RN, Brian – District 2  
Forney, Paul – SD County Ambulance Association  
Froelich, Dan – County Paramedic Agencies Committee  
Scott, MD, Christopher – SD County Medical Society

#### **County Staff**

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

#### **Agency Representatives**

Beckert, Mark – Carlsbad FD  
Dotson, RN, Melody – AMR  
Graydon, RN Cheryl – ENA  
Hayflich, Vanessa – Air Methods  
Hinton, William – Mercy Air  
Kahn, MD, Chris – UCSD  
Lord, Scott – Mercy Air  
Meadows-Pitt, RN, Mary – Grossmont  
Mercer, Kevin – AMR  
Pearson, Danielle – Vista FD  
Pearson, Nate – Carlsbad FD  
Ruiz, Sal – CSA-17  
Seabloom, Lynne – Oceanside FD  
Sloan, MD, Christian – UCSD/North Zone/Mercy Air  
Stauffer, Kimberly – SDFR  
Sullivan, Don – AMR

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### **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.
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## II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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A motion was made by Dan Froelich, seconded by Dr. Chris Scott, to approve the October 14, 2021 EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting minutes. Motion carried.

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## III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

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There were no public comments or petitions.

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## IV. STAFF REPORT – Jaime Pitner

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- County EMS transition to the Public Safety Group: The transition from HNSA 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: On November 2 the Board received the Community Health and Injury Prevention (CHIP) Project for the SDCo FPD. Included in that approval was an update on the AB 1544 plan for the LEMSA to complete when the regulations are approved by EMSA.
  - 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.
  - 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/November 2021)
  - 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.
  - LOSOP Approval: 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. An authorizing policy and protocol are moving through the EMCC and BSPC process. County EMS has requested changes to the approval to expand vaccination age ranges and awaiting a response before December 31, 2021.
  - 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
  - Hospital Reporting to Resource Bridge: During the initial phases of the pandemic, County EMS asked our community hospitals to report numerous daily data elements related to bed availability and other important factors, which was critical to the County’s pandemic response. While we have significantly decreased the amount of daily data requested, the remaining few data elements are extremely important to monitor system stress. We ask our community hospital partners to stay vigilant in accurately reporting this information on a daily basis.
  - Base Hospital Assignment Update: The Base Hospital Assignments are due for a refresh. County EMS is finalizing an update form that will go to each EMS Coordinator. We plan to finalize these updated assignments before Thanksgiving, so we thank agencies in advance for a
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- quick turnaround.
- EMSA Star of Life Award nominations are open: The annual EMS Authority Star of Life awards are open for nomination. These awards honor special advocacy, heroic acts, innovations, or special contributions to improve EMS in the state by EMS personnel, medical providers, local officials, members of the law enforcement community, citizens, and first responders. EMS agencies may send information to the LEMSA or nominate awardees directly through the EMSA website by December 31.

Josh Smith followed up on a request regarding diversion from several hospital partners at a Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting a couple of months ago. EMS staff was asked to provide a daily update to each hospital requesting it, for how much diversion they were on the day before. EMS staff came up with a few reports, but ultimately decided that the best way is for each hospital to log into Resource Bridge on their own and pull any needed reports. EMS staff will issue a user guide and the reports can be scheduled to be sent to hospital staff every day via email. Satellite hospitals are encouraged to use Resource Bridge to its fullest.

Dr. Chris Kahn's voiced concern is that these reports are not available to EMS agencies.

**ACTION: Josh Smith will take Dr. Kahn's concern and pass it along.**

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## V. POLICIES FOR REVIEW (Jaime Pitner)

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- P-806: ALS First Responder Inventory

Suggestions were made by the group to have one (1) policy that would address policies P-806, P-807, and P-834.

EMS staff seek endorsement of the drafts as presented, and new suggestions can be considered in the next revision cycle.

**A motion was made by Dr. Chris Scott, seconded by Paul Forney to approve policy P-806. Dan Froelich dissented. Motion carried.**

- P-807: Wildland ALS Kit Inventory

**A motion was made by Dr. Chris Scott, seconded by Paul Forney to approve policy P-807. Motion carried.**

- P-834: BLS First Responder Inventory

**A motion was made by Dr. Chris Scott, seconded by Paul Forney to approve policy P-834. Motion carried.**

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## VI. OLD BUSINESS

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- A. S-010 ED Ambulance Diversion - Update (Brian Christison)

There is a sense that diversion is not consistency being used as intended. There was group discussion, and a suggestion was made to further discuss this with interested stakeholders on how to improve the access to appropriate information by EMS provider. Staff recommended this discussion through the upcoming consultant report process. EMS staff looks forward to having further discussion on this.

**ACTION: A request was made to add this policy to the next EMCC meeting agenda for further discussion. EMS staff will consult with the EMCC Chair.**

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

Have approval for EMT and paramedic testing and immunization and vaccination. Also submitted an amended application to include children and additional swabs. Waiting for EMSA approval.

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## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

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- A. EMS Protocol Review Process  
Jaime Pitner shared a PowerPoint presentation [Protocol Review Process](#) with the group. Suggestions and input are due by November 10, 2021.
- B. North Zone Tiered Dispatch Plan Update  
Dr. Sloan provided a PowerPoint presentation on Medical Tiered Dispatch Delivery which covered the following:
- Goals
  - Current Medical Dispatch Model
  - How MPDS Triages calls – Determinant Codes
  - Determinant Code Distribution – Percentage of Cases
  - Tiered Dispatch Delivery Model for North Zone Pilot Program
  - How to Measure the Success of the Program
  - Determinant Code with Response Priority/Incident Disposition

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## **VIII. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT**

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The next EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2022 at 9:30 AM. Meeting adjourned at 10:02 AM.