



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, February 11, 2021

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

Beckert, Mark – Carlsbad FD
Forney, Paul – AMR
Hinton, William – Mercy Air
Kahn, M.D., Chris – UCSD
Lord, Scott – Mercy Air
Meadows-Pitt, Mary – Grossmont
Pearson, Nate – Carlsbad FD
Pierce, R.N., Jodi
Zimmerman, Stephanie – REACH

County Staff

Chmielewski, R.N., Lorraine
Christison, Brian
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)
Gall, R.N., Jessica
Martin, Adelver
Pacheco, R.N., Cheryl
Pitner, Jaime
Rogers, Cody

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.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dan Froelich, seconded by Brian Covell to approve the January 14, 2021 EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting minutes. Motion carried.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

Dr. Chris Scott had a comment regarding the use of ACLS as a standard in the protocols. The subcommittee is allowed to review the protocols and make recommendations.

IV. STAFF REPORT – Jaime Pitner

A. EMT Renewals.

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: Vaccinations for EMS Professionals are dependent on State and County protocol and vaccine supply. For more information, please check the County Covid-19 website for the most current information at www.coronavirus-sd.com/vaccine.

C. County EMS Duty Officer: Continues to operate 24/7. CoSD EMS Duty Officer contact methods changed in April 2020. Please make note of these changes as the old phone number is going to be disconnected in the near future.

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 issued a temporary change in the identified pediatric trauma center patient definition. This will ensure the maximum of adult critical care resources are available during this pandemic surge.

All patients identified as Trauma Center Patients known, or appearing to be 14 to 18 years of age, SHALL BE included in the pediatric patient category (as defined in County EMS Policies S-101, T-460, T-705, and T-706).

Effective immediately, Trauma Center Patients between the ages of 14-18 SHALL BE transported to the pediatric trauma center (Rady Children's Hospital San Diego).

- F. Capacity Plan: The All-Hazard Health Service Capacity Management Plan is still at a Level 1 Full Activation (the highest level). EMS Epidemiologists continue to carefully monitor Healthcare, Hospital and EMS system metrics and produce a HSCTF Level 1 Surveillance report for the Task Force Members 7 days a week.
- G. EMCC Education and Research Subcommittee will reconvene on 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.
- H. Communications Failure reporting: County staff have heard scattered reports about an increase in Communications Failure incidents recently. As a reminder, under P-405, all Communications Failures must be reported to the assigned base immediately, but no more than 24 hours after the incident. County staff, including the medical director, track Communications Failure very closely.
- I. Policies and Protocols: The 2019-2020 protocol review is well underway with all Adult and Pediatric protocols proceeding through final review by BSPC this month. A summary of all updates will be prepared in April and provided to the BHNC's to begin educational planning.
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. Timeline for final implementation is on track for July 1, 2021.

V. POLICIES FOR REVIEW

- P-305: Paramedic Accreditation/Reaccreditation

Reviewed the policy as a group and made recommendations. Long group discussion on minor language changes. A proposal was made to adjust the ACLS requirement.

ACTION: A request was made to put this item on the agenda for the next Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting for further discussion on the minor changes. Brian Christison will send the editable version of the language. Dan Froelich will make the changes and the committee will work on it together at the next meeting.

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

ACTION: Nicole will distribute the policy in track and clean versions to the committee for review.

VI. ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 10:27 AM.

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