



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
North Inland Live Well Center
649 W. Mission Ave, Ste 1, Grand Rm A/B, Escondido 92025
Thursday, February 8, 2024

Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE

Members

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

County Staff

Assof, Michael
Christison, Brian
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)
Meick, Tyler
Trousdale, Brad

Agency Representatives

Clyons, Jeff – SD Fire Rescue
Dotson, RN, Melody – UCSD
Kahn, MD, Chris – UCSD
Lopez, Brent – REACH
Pearson, Nate – Carlsbad FD
Ruiz, Sal – CSA 17

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Chara Cote, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. A quorum was declared.
- There were no introductions.
- There were no announcements.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from November 9, 2023 were not approved. The members from the November meeting were not in attendance to approve the minutes.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

There were no public comments or petitions.

IV. COUNTY REPORT – Brian Christison, Program Coordinator

- Health Services Capacity Plan Level: Plan Level 4 – Enhanced Surveillance; Southern California Fire Preparedness Level: Plan Level 1.
- 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 look 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.

The consultant's initial findings and recommendations were presented at 5 in-person sessions November 7-9. The presentation is also available for viewing on the County Engagement page.

Additional information and timelines are posted on the County EMS webpage.

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 \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)

- Transfer of Care Dashboard Updated: The County EMS Transfer of Care dashboard, which many of our community members refer to regularly, was not updated during December and January. FirstWatch, as the repository and aggregator of the PCR signature timestamp, supplies the data we use for the TOC dashboard. The Alvarado Hospital name change caused a recoverable error in the FirstWatch records. On February 7, the First Watch technical team restored the data flow, and the County EMS Transfer of Care dashboard was immediately updated.
- 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.

County staff are diligently reviewing the public comments to incorporate into draft protocols, which will then be presented at Base Station Physicians' Committee (BSPC) in the coming months.

- New Online Reporting Platform for APS Referrals: Aging & Independence Services (AIS) has transitioned to a new online reporting platform for APS referrals. To report suspected elder or dependent adult abuse or self-neglect, use the new link below:

<https://sandiego.leapsportal.net/LEAPSIntake/NewPublicIntakeReport.aspx>

You do not need a username and password to use the new online system. In addition, a SOC 341 form is no longer required if you use the online referral option above. Referrals can still be made by calling the AIS Call Center at 800-339-4661.

The [Mandatory Reporting](#) page has been updated and the San Diego County EMS Office is in the process of revising policy S-411 Reporting of Suspected Child, Dependent Adult, or Elder Abuse/Neglect to reflect these changes.

- EMS Mobile App: The EMS Mobile App was updated to include an option to comment on EMS treatment protocols, policies open for public comment, and submit feedback for the EMS Mobile App. Users can navigate to the References section, then click on "EMS App, Protocol, and Policy Suggestions and Comments" to see this new feature.

EMS Mobile App: <https://emsmobile.sandiegocounty.gov/>

- NEMSIS version 3.5 transition update: The San Diego County EMS Office is pleased to announce the upcoming LEMSIS Elite transition to the NEMSIS 3.5 standard. This work, completed with the assistance of multiple stakeholders, is nearing completion. In addition to making necessary updates to the data collection and processing system, County EMS has worked with external platforms, including billing companies and FirstWatch, to ensure a seamless transition for LEMSIS users.

LEMSIS users should be aware of the following:

- 1/22/24, Santee-Lakeside EMS Agency successfully piloted the LEMSIS 3.5 data standard.
- 2/06/24, all other LEMSIS agencies transitioned to the NEMSIS 3.5-based ePCR form.
- On February 6, the NEMSIS 3.4-compliant BHR was deactivated, and the 3.5 version became the form of record.
- Field users will notice minor changes in the ePCR form. These changes are primarily related to

the EMS call disposition. Field provider education is posted on the County EMS website and should be distributed to field providers.

- Agency administrators and other administrative staff will note changes to configured Internal Views and reports related to data field changes from NEMSIS 3.4 to the 3.5 standard.

County EMS appreciates the assistance and advice provided by our LEMSIS users in this important work. Please contact the EMS Office with questions via EMSNotifications@sdcountry.ca.gov

- Buprenorphine Pilot Program: We are pleased to announce the prehospital buprenorphine pilot program went live on October 2. Escondido Fire Department and AMR (in the CSA 17) began screening opioid withdrawal and opioid use disorder patients using the COWS score.

Patients meeting criteria are enrolled in the pilot program. As part of the pilot, patients are encouraged to connect with Substance Use Navigators (SUN) within the emergency department, who will direct them to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT).

San Diego County Fire trained personnel in preparation for initiation on February 1, 2024, and County Fire will have three units equipped and participating in this program. We anticipate additional agencies joining the pilot program in the future.

For any questions about this program, please contact Tyler Meick (tyler.meick@sdcountry.ce.gov)

- 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 reach out via email EMSNotifications@sdcountry.ca.gov.
- Health Officer Order for Annual Influenza Season: The annual influenza season is upon us. The health officer order is evergreen and in force through the designated influenza season (November 1-March 31). The influenza 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 influenza. As a reminder, the "Jury Duty letter" has been discontinued, as any jury summons can be deferred for any reason anytime.

You can view the health order here: [Health Officer Order \(HOO\) - Annual Influenza Season](#)

- Public Comment Process: The Draft Policy Public Comment page was recently updated to reflect multiple policies that are currently posted for public comment until February 4, 2024. Some of these policies impact the standards for transfer of care from EMS personnel to ED medical personnel as well as identify procedures for mitigating ambulance patient offload delays. You can subscribe to receive email notifications when draft policies are posted for public comment. A Draft Policy Public Comment link is also located on the EMS Mobile App.

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 and ketamine. We recommend auditing your inventory levels and communicating with your medication vendors on how they may be impacted. 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 \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)

- Agency LEMSIS rosters need updating: All EMS agencies have the ability to electronically update their employee lists in LEMSIS. County staff have noticed that some agencies have done a better job adding new staff and have been less accurate with removing staff that have left the agency. Other agencies have not updated their roster in some time. County staffers rely on these LEMSIS rosters for finding the correct agency point of contact, QA reviews, arrest notifications, and a number of other responsibilities. ALS agencies are required to update their rosters under their MOAs, and permitted ambulance providers are required to update their rosters under County code.
- County EMS Office Holiday Closure Advisory: President's Day, February 19, 2024

V. POLICIES FOR REVIEW

- P-305: Paramedic Accreditation/Reaccreditation

A motion was made by Chris Scott, seconded by Mary Murphy to endorse Policy P-305 to move forward to the full EMCC, with the clarified language in section A.4. to be consistent with sections D.1. and D.2.b. Motion carried.

- P-405: Communications Failure

A motion was made by Paul Forney, seconded by Chris Scott to endorse Policy P-405 to move forward to the full EMCC, as is. Motion carried.

- P-405A: Communications Failure Report

A motion was made by Chris Scott, seconded by Paul Forney to endorse Policy P-405A to move forward to the full EMCC. Motion carried.

- P-430: Special Assignment – Fireline Paramedic

A motion was made by Mary Murphy, seconded by Chris Scott to endorse Policy P-430 to move forward to the full EMCC. Motion carried.

- S-610: Transfer of Care Guidelines

A motion was made by Paul Forney, seconded by Harry Muns to not endorse this policy, but instead for members to submit comments to Chara Cote by next Wednesday. Comments are to be provided with EMCC meeting packet. Motion carried.

- S-882: Emergency Medical Dispatch Programs

A motion was made by Harry Muns, seconded by Chris Scott to endorse Policy S-882 to move forward to the full EMCC. Motion carried.

- S-882A: Emergency Medical Dispatch Programs – Plan Template

A motion was made by Chris Scott, seconded by Harry Muns to endorse Policy S-882A to move forward to the full EMCC. Motion carried.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- Elect Chair and Vice Chair

ACTION: A request was made to move this agenda item to next month, until enough primary members are in attendance for nomination.

- Consider Technical Representative for Prehospital

A motion was made by Chris Scott, seconded by Mary Murphy to approve CAL-AAMS as a Technical Representative for Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- Update of Ambulance Diversion Ad hoc Committee
Additional training is being pushed out to improve the usage of the ED Impact Score.

VIII. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2024, 9:30 am at the County Operations Center, Rm 171. Meeting adjourned at 11:21 am.