



# County of San Diego

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**EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE (EMCC)**  
**Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee Meeting**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
Chara Cote, R.N., Chair / Vacant, Vice Chair

**Minutes**  
**Thursday, March 10, 2022**

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## **IN ATTENDANCE**

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### **Members**

Cote, RN, Chara – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators  
Forney, Paul – SD County Ambulance Association  
Froelich, Dan – County Paramedic Agencies Committee  
Murphy, Mary – County Paramedic Agencies Committee (Alt)  
Scott, MD, Christopher – SD County Medical Society  
Wells, RN, Christine – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators (Alt)

### **County Staff**

Abedin, Sanaa  
Christison, Brian  
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)  
Gall, RN, Jessica  
Parr, Andy  
Pitner, Jaime  
Smith, PhD, Josh  
Stepanski, Barbara

### **Agency Representatives**

Beckert, Mark – Carlsbad FD  
Behm, Jeff – Falck  
Clyons, Jeffrey – SD Fire Rescue  
Dotson, Melody – AMR  
Hinton, William – Mercy Air  
Jagielinski, Jakub – SD County Fire Protection District/CAL Fire  
Kahn, MD, Christopher – USCD  
Lopez, Brent – Reach  
Mercer, Kevin – AMR  
Pearson, Nate – Carlsbad FD  
Rauto-Shin, Roxanne – Vista FD  
Schadegg, Rochelle – Mercy SD  
Smith, Ray – CVFD  
Sullivan, Don – AMR  
Zimmerman, Stephanie – Mercy Air

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

- Chara Cote, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.
- In lieu of introductions, attendance was captured online.
- There were no announcements.

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## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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**A motion was made by Paul Forney, seconded by Dan Froelich, to approve the February 10, 2022 EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting minutes. Motion carried.**

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### III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

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Melody Dotson shared a map of the Bachman Place closure effective April 4, 2022. It includes alternate routes of traffic needing to get to Mercy or UCSD and a first responder lounge.

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### IV. STAFF REPORT – Jaime Pitner

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- EMSA waivers come to a close JUNE 30 2022 (Date change, again)  
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 administrationCoEMS expects that these emergency standards will conclude on June 30, 2022, including for training courses that began prior to this date. Agencies with EMT staff are asked to help clarify the renewal needs as all LEMSAs return to prior practice. After June 30, renewing EMTs are required to provide 24 hours of EMS Continuing Education, a current BLS-level CPR card, and the completed skills competency verification form, as well as to submit the required fees.
- American College of Surgeons - Trauma Center Verification Surveys:  
The triennial ACS “verification” visits for all 6 County Trauma Centers have been scheduled for this winter and spring. Four of our Trauma Centers will have completed these visits by the end of this month and two more are scheduled in May. Each of the Trauma Centers will report on their own findings - but we’d like to let you know that County EMS Staff is assisting on these reviews and completes the County Trauma Center compliance surveys concurrently with the ACS reviews.
- County EMS Personnel Fees mark year two of three incremental increases:  
In the next few months an updated schedule of fees will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval. Among the fees being adjusted, EMS personnel fees will increase by \$20 again this year marching toward the CoSD Board Policy B-29 requirement for cost recovery for providing EMS credentialing services. The new recertification fee for EMT Certification, Paramedic Accreditation and MICN Authorization will be \$126. Other EMS fees are being adjusted and those adjustments were presented at the February (2/24) EMCC Meeting.
- Medication shortages: Pharmaceutical backorders continue to present challenges to our paramedic agencies. Epinephrine prefilled syringes and dextrose 50% are currently in shortage and several agencies have reached critical stock levels. Please see the EMS Medical Director’s memos posted to the County EMS webpage for guidance.
- County Meetings are Still Virtual (for now):  
County EMS holds several community meetings each month. Up to 6 of these meetings are so-called “Brown Act” meetings and require specific notification and recordation. The California State Legislature has passed a law (AB361) allowing partial relief from the public meeting requirements. This relief must be reaffirmed at each regular meeting held virtually. This relief ends at the Advisory Committee’s discretion or until 2023 whichever comes first.
- Procurements: County EMS encourages interested parties to register with the County’s BuyNet webportal to receive procurement information as soon as it is released. There are instructions posted on our website. Upcoming procurements include:
  - RFP for Evaluation of Base Station System and Trauma Catchment area designation (upcoming)
  - RFP for Paramedic Ambulance Services for CSA 17 (Note: That due to unavoidable delays in the RFP approval process CoEMS, with the support of CoDPC, has extended the CSA-17 contract with AMR until July 1, 2022. However, CoEMS expects the CSA-17 RFP to be released in the first quarter of 2022.)

- EMS Protocol Review for 2022  
The EMS team is completing the final review of protocol revisions for 2022. Thanks to all those who submitted suggested revisions. The revised protocols have been finalized and distributed in advance of education and training updates in April. Implementation of the revised protocols is scheduled for July 1, 2022.

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## V. POLICIES FOR REVIEW (Jaime Pitner)

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There were no policies for review.

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## VI. NEW BUSINESS

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- Ambulance Diversion Discussion  
County EMS is collecting data – data during the surge, ambulance diversion suspension, and post surge data to help propose the process forward. The group was asked for their input to either continue this discussion in this subcommittee or form a separate working group.

**ACTION: The group’s decision was to form a separate subcommittee with relevant stakeholders.**

County Ambulance Diversion was used a handful of times over the last couple of weeks, and generally seems to be effective.

- Discussion of Transfer of Care Signature Time  
LEMSIS agencies have been using the signature timestamp to replicate the TOC button push for close to two years. Times recorded from the TOC button and the signature time are similar. A request was made from one of our agencies to work on importing signature time in their WATER PCR. We are in the exploratory stages with FirstWatch to import the signature time from a non-LEMSIS PCR, and import that into FirstWatch in the near real time basis. County EMS noted that these data are critical to monitor the EMS delivery system, and accurate, actionable data is critical to load leveling and system operations.

Discussion followed by Q and A. The group was reminded not to stop pushing the TOC button until this is fully integrated, which could take weeks to months. For the fire agencies that are WATER users, there is an upcoming data agreement with FirstWatch to complete this work, and to ensure their fire chief is aware that this request is coming.

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## VII. OLD BUSINESS

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There was no old business.

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## VIII. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

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Please note the time change for the next EMCC Education Research Subcommittee meeting on March 17, 2022. Meeting will start at 1:00 pm instead of 9:30 am, due to a conflict.

The next EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2022 at 9:30 AM. Meeting adjourned at 10:04 am.