



County of San Diego

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE (EMCC)
Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee Meeting
Chara Cote, R.N., Chair / Christopher Scott, M.D., Vice Chair
Thursday, March 9, 2023
Zoom Meeting
MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE

Members

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

County Staff

Abedin, Sanaa
Assof, Michael
Christison, Brian
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)
Erickson, Kirk
Gall, Jessica
Meick, Tyler
Pacheco, Cheryl
Parr, Andy
Robbins, Christi
Stepanski, Barbara

Agency Representatives

Behm, Jeff – Falck
Covell, Brian – Scripps Mercy
Duffy, Jenny – San Marcos FD
Kahn, MD, Chris – UCSD
Lopez, Brent – REACH
Muns, Harry – CVFD
Pearson, Nate – Carlsbad FD
Pierce, Jodi – San Diego FD
Seabloom, Lynn – Oceanside FD
Levine, MD, Saul – Sharp Memorial
Rainey, Jason – CALFire
Smith, Ray – CVFD
Sullivan, Don – AMR

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dr. Chris Scott, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM.
- In lieu of introductions, attendance was captured online.
- There were no announcements.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Paul Forney, seconded by Dr. Chris Scott, to approve the January 12, 2023 EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting minutes. Motion carried.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

Dr. Scott made the following public comment: Kaiser Permanente announced that the San Marcos Medical Center is scheduled to open on August 9, which will be a full service basic emergency department. Further announcements will be made on more details as they become available.

IV. STAFF REPORT – Tyler Meick, EMS Coordinator

- Health Services Capacity Plan Level: – Plan Level 3 – Partial Activation
 - EMSA Policy Update: As a reminder, the ability for EMS personnel to exercise the expanded services allowed by the Governor’s Executive Order ended February 28. EMS personnel are no longer be able to:
 - Perform their current SOP in hospitals, Alternate Care Sites, Shelters, or any other static site
 - Conduct Covid and Influenza testing
 - Provide vaccinations (COVID, Flu, and/or MPX)
 - And paramedics will no longer authorized to Administer or monitor mAb (Monoclonal Antibody Treatments)
 - EMS Contracts: County Service Area-17 / San Dieguito EMS District has a new Ground Ambulance provider! New meaning a new contract, but not a new provider. AMR will continue in CSA-17 until 2030 and we at the LEMSA look forward to continuing our solid relationship on behalf of the residents and guests of CSA-17.
The Comprehensive Base Station Hospital and Trauma Catchment Area Consultant’s work is underway! There will be ample opportunity to receive public comment as they gather input and begin to formulate 6 different models for us to compare as models for the future of EMS in San Diego County. The Consultant will also be looking at the Trauma Center Catchment Area Map to assure that Trauma Centers receive an optimal balance of Trauma calls at each center.
 - Policies & Protocols: The 2023-2024 protocol review is well underway with all adult and pediatric protocols proceeding through an initial review by BSPC in February and a final review this month. A summary of all updates will be prepared in May and provided to the BHNCs and EMT/Paramedic programs to begin educational planning. A comprehensive protocol packet and associated changelog will also be publicly posted on our website in May.
As a review, we held an open comment period and received over 100 comments across 16 different respondent types, such as EMS agencies, fire departments, hospitals and associations. The timeline for final implementation is on track for July 1, 2023.
 - Medication Shortages: County EMS is aware of multiple medication shortages including albuterol, dextrose and activated charcoal. Additional information and guidance on these medication shortages can be found on the homepage of our website. Also, we would like to remind everyone that our previous guidance on the use of metered dose inhalers is still active and paramedics may use albuterol metered dose inhalers in lieu of nebulized albuterol.
 - EMT Renewals – submit early! In the spring of odd-numbered years (2023, 2025, etc.), the County EMS Credentialing Team is inundated with EMT renewal applications. The monthly credentialing average is about 300 applications, swelling to over 900 in March 2023. 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 no longer waived.
 - County EMS Office Holiday Closure Advisory:
March 31, 2023 – Cesar Chavez Day (County Holiday)
 - New Faces soon at EMS: County EMS has hired new employees. 4 EMS Specialists and one Temp Administrative Analyst I will start March 10. A Legal Support Assistant II is now supporting our EMT background review team. In addition, we have a few more positions in the pipeline. Our goal is improving the presence in the EMS Community specifically well our customer service, outreach, and participation with the Hospital and EMS agencies as needed.
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V. POLICIES FOR REVIEW

- S-882: Dispatching of Emergency Medical Services
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Received a number of comments. Working on adopting and adapting some of those comments for the next round of review.

- S-TBD: Combined First Responder Inventory
In the final stages, then will be placed up for review.
- S-TBD: LEMSA Data Management and Standards Policy
Received a number of comments; likely to go through another round of public comments.

The Online Public Comment Submission page from the San Diego County EMS Office website was shown and discussed with the group, followed by Q and A.

Two suggestions were made regarding the Online Public Comment Submission page:

- 1) **Add a category with drop down options to specify if comment is from a provider or from the public.**
- 2) **Include a summary of the comments attached to the revised draft.**

County EMS is working on an independent sign-up list.

A suggestion was made to the independent sign-up list:

- 1) **Once the sign-up list is active, notify the various committees of the existing list, one time, with the understanding there will be no further notifications to those email listers regarding changes or potential comments for policy changes.**

VI. NEW BUSINESS

ED Status Indicator (Advisory) – Sneak Peek

County EMS has received a formal request from the administration of our healthcare systems for some additional methods to make known the emergency department status for the EMS duty officer and the larger hospital system.

An ED Status Indicator Advisory is being considered. This status indicator would reside in the Resource Bridge availability screen. A matrix is being developed to frame a “stop light” (green, yellow, or red) for the current ED situation. The matrix may include waiting room capacity, percentage of critical patients receiving treatment, overall ED patient care capacity, ambulance offload delays, and ED boarder counts. This would be advisory to other hospitals of the impact of that particular facility and the EMS duty officer as we are making evaluations for county ambulance diversion and others. This is a work in progress and are working through some of the technical issues to make this be a relevant and effective indicator.

Group discussion and questions followed.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- Update of Ambulance Diversion Ad hoc Committee (Tyler Meick)

The work on the Ambulance Diversion Ad hoc Committee is on pause due to the current surge.

- MCI Policy update/discussion

An update was provided.

VIII. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2023 at 9:30 am. Meeting adjourned at 10:24 am.