



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, April 13, 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
Muns, Harry – SD Fire Chiefs' Association (Alt)
Scott, MD, Christopher – SD County Medical Society

Agency Representatives

Clyons, Jeff – SD Fire Rescue
Covell, Brian – Scripps Mercy
Gilmore, Christina – Carlsbad Fire
Hinton, William – Mercy Air
Kahn, MD, Chris – UCSD
Lopez, Brent – REACH
Pearson, Danielle – CVFD
Pederson, Andrew – AMR
Rauto-Shin, Roxanne – Vista FD
Levine, MD, Saul – Sharp Memorial

County Staff

Abedin, Sanaa
Assof, Michael
Baldwin, Cliff
Christison, Brian
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)
Duncan, MD, Dave
Erickson, RN, Kirk
Gall, RN, Jessica
Keating, Amanda
King, Colin
Martin, RN, Adilver
Meick, Tyler
Pacheco, RN, Cheryl
Robbins, RN, Christi
Rogers, Cody
Smith, PhD, Josh
Trousdale, Brad
Williams, Jessica

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Chara Cote, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.
- In lieu of introductions, attendance was captured online.
- There were no announcements.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Chris Scott, seconded by Paul Forney, to approve the March 9, 2023 EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting minutes. Motion carried.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

There were no public comments or petitions.

IV. STAFF REPORT – Tyler Meick, EMS Coordinator

- Health Services Capacity Plan Level: – Plan Level 3 – Partial Activation
- 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. Additional information and timelines are posted on the County EMS webpage.
- Policies and 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 last month. A summary of all updates will be prepared in May and provided to the BHNCs and EMT/Paramedic programs to begin educational planning. 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.
- Public Comment Process is LIVE and improving everyday
 - Public Comment Posting Notification email subscription requests posted and available to the community.
 - “Coming Soon” policy posting
 - Comments will be shared with the Prehospital/ Hospital Subcommittee (still working on the technical and process aspect for public website posting).
 - There are 3 draft policies are available for comment.
- Several County Meetings are returning to in-person: County EMS holds several community meetings each month. Up to 6 of these regular meetings are “Brown Act” meetings and require specific public notification, access, and recordation. The prior allowances under AB-361 and the Governor’s Emergency Order ended February 28, 2023. Committee members should plan on attending the EMCC, CSA-17 Advisory Board, and these bodies’ subcommittee meetings in person.
- 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:
May 29, 2023 – Memorial 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.
- Fee Schedule Escalation – Year 3: Two years ago, EMCC gave their approval for a 3-year escalation of EMS personnel fees. Beginning July 1, 2023, EMS personnel fee will escalate \$20 additional dollars to \$146 every other year in accordance with Board Policy B-29 which requires cost recovery for County required services.
- EMS Medical Director Regulatory Oversight: Many of you that have used the County EMS Medical Director as your own will soon be receiving an official termination letter. You know who you are because you have received prior communications from the EMS office. The final termination date for these services is 7/1/2023. EMS Agency Administrators are requested to update their LMS profile with their EMS Medical Director listed. Even better would be for your EMS Medical Director to have their own LEMSYS Account so they can receive all the official communications send by the EMS Office in real time.

V. POLICIES FOR REVIEW

- S-882: Dispatching of Emergency Medical Services (Verbal Update)

- S-TBD: LEMSA Data Management and Standards Policy (Verbal Update)

Public Comment for draft policies S-882 and data standards have concluded. The public comments are being reviewed. The posted public comments can be viewed [here](#) on the Online Public Comment Submission page from the San Diego County EMS Office website.

- S-400: Management of Controlled Substances on ALS Agencies

A motion was made by Dr. Chris Scott, seconded by Chara Cote to move Policy S-400 forward to the full EMCC. Dan Froelich objected.

- S-416: Supply and Resupply of Designated EMS Agencies and Vehicles

ACTION: Policies S-400 and S-416 will be taken back and will be posted for another round of public comments to better gather input not delivered during the first public comment cycle.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- Update of Ambulance Diversion Ad hoc Committee (Informational)

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

ACTION: A request was made to receive an update on the data collected in regards to the system impacts related to the suspension of hospital-initiated ambulance diversion.

- MCI Policy update/discussion

Following discussions with the Fire Chief's Association, an operational area policy update is being considered. No immediate actions are proposed for County EMS policy adjustments.

ACTION: This item will be removed from the agenda as a standing item.

- ED Impact Indicator (Advisory)

An ED Status Indicator Advisory is being considered 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 and the EMS duty officer that particular facility's impact as we are making evaluations for County Ambulance Diversion and other actions. This is a work in progress and are working through some of the technical issues to make this be a relevant and effective indicator.

VIII. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2023 at 9:30 am. Meeting adjourned at 10:21 am.