



# County of San Diego

**JEFF COLLINS**  
DIRECTOR  
(858) 974-5924  
Fax (858) 467-9662

**PUBLIC SAFETY GROUP**  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OFFICE  
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 250, San Diego, CA 92123-1239  
[www.SanDiegoCountyEMS.com](http://www.SanDiegoCountyEMS.com)

**ANDREW (ANDY) PARR**  
EMS ADMINISTRATOR  
Deputy Director, Departmental Operations  
(619) 285-6429

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

**Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 14, 2022**

---

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

---

### **Members**

Brainard, Criss – SD Fire Chiefs' Association (Alt)  
Cote, RN, Chara – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators  
Forney, Paul – SD County Ambulance Association  
Froelich, Dan – County Paramedic Agencies Committee

### **County Staff**

Abedin, Sanaa  
Christison, Brian  
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)  
Erickson, Kirk  
Martin, Adilver  
Pitner, Jaime  
Regier, Marc  
Robbins, Christi  
Rogers, Cody  
Smith, PhD, Josh  
Stepanski, Barbara

### **Agency Representatives**

Behm, Jeff – Falck  
Clyons, Jeffrey – SD Fire Rescue  
Covell, Brian – Scripps Mercy  
Dotson, Melody – UCSD  
Forman, Kelly – Mercy Air  
Gilmore, Christina – Carlsbad FD  
Kahn, MD, Christopher – USCD  
Lopez, Brent – Reach  
Mercer, Kevin – AMR  
Pearson, Danielle – Vista FD  
Pearson, Nate – Carlsbad FD  
Ruiz, Sal – CSA 17  
Seabloom, Lynne – Oceanside FD  
Stauffer, Kim – SDFRD  
Sullivan, Don – AMR

---

## **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.
- Nate Pearson announced a saline shortage, and introduced Christina Gilmore, community health nurse from Carlsbad Fire.

---

## II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

---

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

---

## III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

---

There were no public comments or petitions.

---

## IV. STAFF REPORT – Jaime Pitner

---

- 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 County EMS Staff is assisting on these reviews and completes the County Trauma Center compliance surveys concurrently with the ACS reviews.
- Paradise Valley Hospital to be a STEMI Receiving Center  
The County EMS office has completed a review of Paradise Valley Hospital’s application to become a STEMI Receiving Center. This review included all requirements per policy S-020 STEMI Critical Care System Designation and an on-site facility review by the EMS team. The projected go-live date is Monday, May 2nd at 07:00.
- 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.
- Board Letter authorizing Credit Card fees and charges set for 4/5 and 4/26 - This BL addresses all County departments that utilize electronic payments and includes EMS credit card transaction fees of \$2.50 and electronic check charge of \$1.50.
- COVID Masking Reminder: To reduce the risk of viral spread, and in compliance with current CDPH regulations, we remind EMS providers that masks must be worn in all healthcare settings. When entering a healthcare facility for any reason, EMS professionals must be masked.
- 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.

- **Capacity Plan:** The All-Hazard Health Service Capacity Management Plan was lowered to a Level 4 Enhanced Surveillance. The plan level was de-escalated on April 12 with the input of the Health Services Capacity Task Force's Operational Core Group. EMS Epidemiologists have continued the system monitoring that has proven critical throughout the pandemic response. The current Plan Level is prominently posted on the County EMS webpage at SanDiegoCountyEMS.com.
- **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 (Posted March 23)
  - 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.
- **San Diego County EMS Office – Strategic Plan Is Underway!**  
San Diego County Fire has contracted with a local firm to conduct a Strategic Analysis and to create a Strategic Plan for San Diego County EMS. This new plan will dovetail with the existing San Diego County Fire Strategic Plan and will align the strategic vision for County EMS with the strategic vision of County Fire. Representatives of selected stakeholder groups are being solicited and will be asked to join the consultant in listening sessions so their voices can be heard in support of the creation of the plan. This work will take place very soon and the timeline for the release of the plan will be on or before July 1, 2022.

---

## V. POLICIES FOR REVIEW (Jaime Pitner)

---

There were no policies for review. Next month, a brief update to Policy S-002: Approval of Emergency Medical Services System Standards, Policies and Procedures will be provided. Anticipate verbiage changes that reference to HHSA.

---

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

---

- Ambulance Diversion Discussion Subcommittee

Sr Epidemiologist Josh Smith shared a PowerPoint presentation: County of San Diego EMS Analysis of New Diversion Policy. This presentation included data from the diversion policy changes implemented during the height of the December 2021-January 2022 COVID-19 patient surge. Data was compared from the pre-surge, during the surge, and post-surge with the two ambulance diversion policies.

Policy update discussion followed. The Prehospital/ Hospital Subcommittee formed a workgroup to review Policy S-010.

### **ACTION:**

1. **If anyone is interested in participating in the workgroup and is a current member of the Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee, send an email to Chair Chara Cote at [CNCote@TCMC.com](mailto:CNCote@TCMC.com) and Brian Christison at [brian.christison@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:brian.christison@sdcounty.ca.gov)**
  2. **Will bring to the next full EMCC meeting.**
- Vice Chairperson Nomination (Chara Cote)

**ACTION:**

1. If anyone is interested in becoming the Vice Chairperson, send an email to Chair Chara Cote at [CNCote@TCMC.com](mailto:CNCote@TCMC.com). Must be a current member on the Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee.
2. Will bring to the next full EMCC meeting.

---

**VII. OLD BUSINESS**

---

- Discussion of Transfer of Care Signature Time

The signature time for the medic transfer of care to the receiving facility has been increasingly recognized as the preferred measure. LEMSIS agencies have been using that particular time stamp in place of the FirstWatch transfer of care button timestamp for roughly two years. County EMS received a request to develop a process to import that signature time from different PCR platforms for LEMSIS use and to report to the State. That work has been well underway. The remaining WATER PCR users have received a data agreement email from FirstWatch to the Fire Chiefs of those agencies. For the few agencies that have not returned the agreement, please do so, so the work can begin. In the interim, County EMS expects all non-LEMSIS PCR users to continue to use the TOC FirstWatch button until all WATER agencies are successfully integrated into that platform. Please continue to ensure your crews are in compliance and enforce the importance of the data collection. Those agencies that have a 90% or higher compliance rate were thanked. For those that are not in compliance, that information is posted on the Transfer of Care Dashboard on the County EMS webpage at [www.sandiegocountyems.com](http://www.sandiegocountyems.com)

---

**VIII. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT**

---

The next EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2022 at 9:30 AM. Meeting adjourned at 10:13 am.