



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, May 12, 2022

IN ATTENDANCE

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, Christ – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators (Alt)

County Staff

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

Agency Representatives

Clyons, Jeffrey – SD Fire Rescue
Kahn, MD, Christopher – USCD
Lopez, Brent – Reach
Pearson, Nate – Carlsbad FD
Rauto-Shin, Roxanne – Vista Fire
Ruiz, Sal – CSA 17
Schadegg, Rochelle – Mercy Air
Smith, Ray – CVFD
Sullivan, Don – AMR
Zimmerman, Stephanie – Mercy Air

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 Mary Murphy, seconded by Dan Froelich, to approve the April 14, 2022 EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting minutes. Motion carried.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

There were no public comments or petitions.

IV. STAFF REPORT – Brian Christison

- EMSA waivers come to a close JUNE 30 2022

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 administration

CoEMS 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.

- San Diego County Fire / EMS Division Advisory Committees – Bylaw Updates Coming Soon!

Continuing the work of moving County EMS to be a Division of San Diego County Fire the bylaws for both the CSA 17 Advisory Committee and the Emergency Medical Care Committee need to be updated to reflect these organizational changes.

- 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 go-live date was Monday, May 2nd at 07:00.

- County EMS Personnel Fees mark year two of three incremental increases:

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 (currently \$106) beginning July 1, 2022. Other EMS programmatic fees are also being adjusted and become effective at the same time.

- 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.

- 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 (More to follow)

- 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. Further extensions may be necessary).
- 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.
- LEMSIS Updates: The County EMS Elite schematron and data dictionary have been distributed to specific third-party PCR vendors. LEMSA staff have been working closely with 3rd party vendors to prepare for this data integration. The integration pilot project has been completed and the integration of subsequent agencies has begun. If you are interested in starting the integration process, please contact your PCR vendor. EMS Agencies may bypass the process of third-party integration by joining LEMSA and the no-cost Elite PCR.
- 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 of 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 this Summer.
- New San Diego County EMS Office Logo: Please join us in celebrating our new logo for EMS.
- EMS Week: EMS week is next week. County EMS staff will take the show on the road by visiting various emergency departments and providing snacks, treats and gratitude for our EMS providers.
- Jaime Pitner, EMS Coordinator, has announced his resignation: His last day is tomorrow.

V. POLICIES FOR REVIEW (Brian Christison)

- S-002: Approval of Emergency Medical Services System Standards, Policies and Procedures

A motion was made by Dr. Chris Scott to approve the revised Policy S-002. Motion not seconded; motion failed.

A motion was made by Dan Froelich, seconded by Paul Forney that this subcommittee provide recommended edits to Policy S-002 and bring back to the next EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting for review. Motion carried.

ACTION: A request was made to have Nicole del Toro will send the word version of Policy S-002 to this subcommittee for edits.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- Vice Chairperson Nomination (Chara Cote)

A motion was made by Dan Froelich, seconded by Paul Forney to nominate Dr. Chris Scott to be the new Vice Chairperson for the EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee. Motion carried.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- Ambulance Diversion Discussion Subcommittee

Continue to receive interested nominations. Anticipate will kick off in the summer. 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 and Brian Christison at brian.christison@sdcounty.ca.gov

- 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 LEMSA use and to report to the State.

Received all agency approvals. In the last development stages with FirstWatch. Will be ready to switch over once the technical work is completed.

VIII. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for June 9, 2022 at 9:30 AM. Meeting adjourned at 10:17 am.