



County of San Diego

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE (EMCC)
Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee Meeting
Chara Cote, RN, Chair/ Christopher Scott, MD, Vice Chair
c/o SD County Emergency Medical Services Office
5560 Overland Ave, Rm 172, San Diego 92123
Thursday, June 8, 2023

Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE

Members

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

County Staff

Assof, Michael
Christison, Brian
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)
Smith, PhD, Josh

Agency Representatives

Kahn, MD, Chris – UCSD
Levine, MD, Saul – Sharp Memorial
Smith, Ray – CVFD

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Chara Cote, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:31 AM. A quorum was declared.
- There were no introductions.
- There were no announcements.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Paul Forney, seconded by Chara Cote, to approve the May 11, 2023 EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting minutes. Motion carried.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

There were no public comments or petitions.

IV. COUNTY REPORT – Brian Christison, Program Coordinator

- Health Services Capacity Plan Level: Plan Level 4 – Enhanced Surveillance; Southern California Fire Preparedness Level: Plan Level 2.
- The Comprehensive Base Station Hospital and Trauma Catchment Area Consultant's work is underway! As part of the ongoing endgame process for this work, the stakeholder survey is open for comment collection through June. This survey is open to all stakeholders, including field providers, emergency department staff, agency administrators, specialty care centers, and the general public. These comments will be informative to our contractor team. This survey will be open through June. This survey, along with other research and stakeholder input will assist in the formulation of 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 at [Comprehensive Evaluation of the Base Hospital System and Trauma Center Catchment Area Designation \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/ems/comprehensive-evaluation-of-the-base-hospital-system-and-trauma-center-catchment-area-designation)

- Policies and Protocols: The 2023-2024 protocol review is completed. A summary of all updates is posted on the County EMS webpage. The timeline for final implementation is on track for July 1, 2023.

Some notable additions to this year's protocol package include:

- TXA for significant traumatic and post-partum hemorrhage
- Buprenorphine pilot program
- Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation Cardiac Arrest pilot
- The FAST-ED stroke severity score

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for taking the time to provide valuable recommendations for change, and to critically evaluate the draft protocols to make our system as up-to-date and evidence informed as possible.

- Upcoming State Paramedic Scope of Practice changes: The State of California EMS Authority has notified stakeholders that a regulatory update to include additional medications for the paramedic scope of practice posted for a 45-day public comment period that recently closed. These additions would move TXA, ketorolac, ketamine, and IV acetaminophen from Local Optional Scope of Practice to basic scope, lowering the regulatory burden for those LEMSAs adopting these treatment modalities. County EMS supports these adjustments and are proud that our local successes with ketamine and acetaminophen have provided support to this enhancement in state paramedic practice. These proposed changes are expected to be before the EMS Commission this Fall.
- Current Medication Shortages: County EMS is aware of multiple medication shortages including ipratropium bromide, 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.
- County EMS Office Holiday Closure Advisory:
 - June 19, 2023 – Juneteenth (County Holiday)
 - July 4, 2023 – Independence Day (County Holiday)
- 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.

V. POLICIES FOR REVIEW

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

Staff work continues on the first round of public comments. A second public comment period should be posted to the website in the coming weeks.

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

Staff work continues on the first round of public comments. A second public comment period should be posted to the website in the coming weeks.

- T-460A: Trauma Decision Algorithm (Verbal Update)

Staff continue working internally on the data received from EMCC Prehospital meeting last month. Will likely have to go back through the MAC process as well. More to come.

- S-002: LEMSA and Policy Protocol Approval

A motion was made by Dr. Chris Scott, seconded by Dan Froelich to endorse Policy S-002. Motion carried.

- B-325: Perilaryngeal Airway Adjuncts Training Program Requirements

A motion was made by Dr. Chris Scott, seconded by Paul Forney to endorse Policy B-325. Motion carried.

- D-822: Perilaryngeal Airway Adjuncts Services Provider Designation

A motion was made by Dr. Chris Scott, seconded by Dan Froelich to endorse Policy D-822. Motion carried.

- S-836: Critical Care Transport Unit Inventory

ACTION: Paul Forney will take Policy S-836 back to the San Diego County Ambulance Association for feedback and consensus; and will get further input from local CCT providers.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- EMCC Meeting Public Comment
 - The EMCC meeting public comment is currently in person and remains at the full EMCC and the subcommittee meetings. Attendee comments should be sent to their representative.
 - There have been some requests to allow for virtual chat option. If there is recommendation from the subcommittee, we can continue to work on ways to collect real time comments.
 - The group was asked to bring ideas on how to make this meeting accessible.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- Update of Ambulance Diversion Ad hoc Committee (Informational)
 - There is no immediate forward progress on the Ambulance Diversion Ad hoc Committee.
 - We currently have the ED impact score piloting between two hospitals in South Bay where the hospital staff will go through a scorecard to then provide additional real time information of what is happening inside their hospital to the duty officer to further inform the decision process about implementing county ambulance diversion.
 - Working on ideas to improve a FirstWatch style screen of hospital status.
- Request for an updated analysis on system performance with County Ambulance Diversion (Verbal Update)

Sr Epidemiologist Josh Smith provided the following presentation: [County of San Diego, EMS Analysis of New Diversion Policy](#)

Group discussion followed.

VIII. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2023 at 9:30 am. Meeting adjourned at 10:43 am