



County of San Diego

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE (EMCC) Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee Meeting Zoom Meeting

Chara Cote, R.N., Chair / Brian Covell, R.N., Vice Chair

Minutes

Thursday, September 9, 2021

IN ATTENDANCE

Members

Cote, R.N., Chara – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators
Covell, R.N., Brian – District 2
Froelich, Dan – County Paramedic Agencies Committee
Mercer, Kevin – SD County Ambulance Association
Pearson, Danielle – County Paramedic Agencies Committee (Alt)
Scott, M.D., Christopher – SD County Medical Society
Wells, R.N., Christine – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators (Alt)

County Staff

Abedin, Sanaa
Cavanaugh, Adria
Christison, Brian
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)
Gall, R.N., Jessica
Martin, Adelver
Moog, Jill
Parr, Andy
Pitner, Jaime
Rogers, Cody
Smith, PhD, Josh

Agency Representatives

Beckert, Mark – Carlsbad FD
Dotson, R.N., Melody – AMR
Forney, Paul – AMR
Graydon, R.N., Cheryl – ENA
Hayflich, Vanessa – Air Methods
Jagielinski, Jakub – San Diego County Fire/CAL FIRE
Kahn, M.D., Chris – UCSD
Lord, Scott – Mercy Air
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – Grossmont
Meick, Tyler – Reach Air
Murphy, Mary – North County FPD
Olson-Mack, Lindsey – Scripps
Pearson, Nate – Carlsbad FD
Rauto-Shin, Roxanne – Vista FD
Stauffer, Kimberly – SDFR
Sullivan, Don – AMR
Zimmerman, Stephanie – Mercy Air

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- A. Chara Cote, EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.
 - B. In lieu of introductions, attendance was captured online.
 - C. Jill Moog was introduced as the new Administrative Secretary II for San Diego County Fire.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made Dr. Chris Scott, seconded by Chara Cote to approve the July 8, 2021, EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting minutes. Motion carried.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

Melody Dotson, UCSD Base Hospital Nurse Coordinator, shared information regarding upcoming construction happening at UCSD in 2022 in Hillcrest and La Jolla locations. The road closures will affect employees and EMS. Maps of the emergency vehicle routes were shared.

IV. STAFF REPORT – Jaime Pitner

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- A. County EMS transition to the Public Safety Group: On June 29 the final piece of the administrative transfer of the activities and responsibilities of the LEMSA were transferred from the County's Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) to the County's Public Safety Group (PSG). The County Board of Supervisors approved the amendment of Board Policy K-12 which designated the San Diego County Emergency Medical Services Office as the LEMSA for the County.
 - B. Board Letter Watch: Board approval issued on August 31 regarding initiation of the LAFCO process to transfer of management of CSA-69 operating area from the County to the service providers. No change to manner and scope of services.
 - C. Flu: Flu Season is almost upon us again. The "PHO Flu Order" is evergreen, and runs through the designated influenza season (November 1 – March 31). The flu letter requires, among other things, that healthcare personnel wear a mask in patient care areas if they choose to not be vaccinated for the flu.
 - D. Assess and Refer/P-801 options available: In response to the latest COVID surge, P-801 response modification and Assess and Refer options have been re-activated. If you would like to exercise either of these options, please send your request to EMSNotifications@sdcounty.ca.gov.
 - E. Procurements: County EMS encourages interested parties to register in BuyNet to receive procurement information as it is released. There are instructions posted on our website. Upcoming procurements include:
 - RFQ for AED site management (Closed on 8/20)
 - RFP for Evaluation of Base Station System and Trauma Catchment area designation (anticipated release September 2021)
 - RFP for Paramedic Ambulance Services for CSA 17 (anticipated release September 2021)
 - F. EMSA waivers come to a close December 31- note the updated date!: 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

All of these emergency standards were extended from September to conclude on December 31, 2021, including for training courses that began prior to this date. EMSA has, however, created a Local Optional Scope of Practice template to authorize EMS vaccination and COVID sample collection efforts – the San Diego EMS Office has submitted our request to continue this important work.

- G. Capacity Plan: The All-Hazard Health Service Capacity Management Plan is currently at a Level 1 Full Activation. EMS Epidemiologists have continued the continuous 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.
- H. SART Declaration: The Board of Supervisors recognized the Sexual Assault Response Team program for their 30 year anniversary providing services to the County of San Diego. They presented a Declaration making August 31 - SART Day.
- I. LEMSIS Updates: The County EMS Elite schematron and data dictionary have been finalized and distributed to third party PCR vendors. Please note requirements to accept 3rd party data on or before November 1, 2021. Any agency that would like to adopt the no-cost-to-you LEMSIS ePCR platform should contact County EMS staff to begin that conversation.
- J. County EMS Duty Officers: are on duty 24/7. The new phone number is 619-588-0397.

V. POLICIES FOR REVIEW

- P-405 Communication Failure (Jaime Pitner)

The group gave input on changes to the language.

The current form is being worked on to be made more simple, up to date, and fillable.

VI. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- EMSA Emergency Standards extension (Brian Christison)

The Executive Order of the Governor regarding EMS licensure, certification, and training has been extended through December 31, 2021.

- Local Optional Scope of Practice application for Immunization and COVID-19 Testing (Jaime Pitner)

This has been extended through December 31, 2021, and additional applications from LEMSIS are expected to be approved by September 21.

- Stroke Communication Tool (Brian Covell, RN/ Lindsey Olson-Mack, RN)

Seen an increase number of Stroke Code activations and cancellations upon arrival to the EDs. With the collaboration of all the Stroke receiving centers, a Stroke Turnover Report was created which is a checklist for a better way to transfer the information from the prehospital setting to the stroke receiving centers and then to neurology for more prompt treatment and detection of stroke symptoms.

Group discussion followed by Q&A.

- **Transfer of Care (TOC) Compliance (Josh Smith, PhD)**
The TOC data is reported to the State. Have been informed that some hospitals are pushing the TOC button prematurely, and therefore is giving inaccurate data. Have not decided how to address this issue yet. Will continue to monitor the situation, with the possibility of taking it public.

Group discussion followed by Q&A. If crews see that the button has been pushed prematurely, can email the duty officer or Josh Smith.

- **S-010: Emergency Department Ambulance Diversion (Chris Scott, MD)**

Policy S-010 was updated effective July 1, 2021. However, ED Diversion was suspended briefly. Brian Christison shared a PowerPoint on the [ED Diversion Situation](#) which covered the Background, Situation, County EMS Actions, and the Decision.

Group discussion followed by Q&A.

VII. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

Next EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting is on October 14, 2021.
Meeting adjourned at 11:11 AM.