



County of San Diego

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE (EMCC) Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee Meeting & Education and Research Subcommittee Meeting COMBINED

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, November 9, 2023

Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE

Members

Graydon, RN, Cheryl – Emergency Nurses’ Association (*Education member*)
Scott, MD, Christopher – SD County Medical Society (*Prehospital member*)
Wells, RN, Christine – BHNCC (*Prehospital member*)

County Staff

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

Agency Representatives

Gilmore, Christina – Carlsbad FD
Hughes, Sarah – RCCP
Pearson, Nate – Carlsbad FD
Stauffer, Kim – SDFD
Sullivan, Don – AMR

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dr. Chris Scott, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:36 AM. A quorum was declared for Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee. There was no quorum for Education and Research Subcommittee.
- There were no introductions.
- There were no announcements.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. **A motion was made by Dr. Chris Scott, seconded by Christine Wells, to approve the October 12, 2023, EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting minutes. Motion carried.**
- B. **The Education and Research Subcommittee meeting minutes from July 27, 2023, were not approved due to no quorum.**

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

There were no public comments or petitions.

IV. COUNTY REPORT (*Prehospital/Hospital*) – Michael Assof, EMS 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: The County's consultant's work is ongoing. This work includes providing 6 different models for us to compare as models for the future of the EMS base hospital system in San Diego County. The Consultant will also be looking at the Trauma Center Catchment Area Map to assure Trauma Centers receive an optimal balance of Trauma calls at each center and other demographic updates for the catchment map. The next community engagement phase will include listening sessions on November 7-9. These sessions will be held in each of the Supervisorial Districts. Additional information and timelines are posted on the County EMS webpage.
 - Community Engagement Page: [Base Station Hospital & Trauma Catchment Review | Engage San Diego County](#)
 - CoSD EMS Informational Page: [Comprehensive Evaluation of the Base Hospital System and Trauma Center Catchment Area Designation \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)
- Protocols: The 2024-2025 EMS Treatment Protocol Revision cycle concluded on October 1. A survey was posted online from September 1 – October 1 for the EMS community to provide feedback on treatment protocols. The survey received over 70 responses from various system participants ranging from EMTs to physicians. The next step is to review the public comments and incorporate any revisions into draft protocols. Draft protocols will be presented at the Base Station Physicians' Committee or BSPC in early 2024.
- EMS Mobile App: The EMS Mobile App was launched in May. This is a browser-based application that works on any device with an internet connection and web browser. We are continuously updating the content in the References section and welcome any suggestion for new additions.
 - The EMS Mobile App received approximately 6,000 visits and 11,000 pageviews last month.
 - EMS Mobile App: [Home \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)
- Unified Service Area (USA) to Ambulance Service Area (ASA) Transition: In 2020, following study, community engagement, and a competitive procurement, the Unified Service Area began paramedic ambulance service operations. The Unified Service Area (or USA) dramatically improved the level of service throughout most of the rural reaches of our county. At the direction of the Board of Supervisors, this service area is transitioning to the San Diego County Fire Protection District Ambulance Service Area, or ASA, with the County Fire team who are assuming all administrative and operational responsibilities for ambulance service in this area. The ASA will also provide 911 exclusive service in the Ramona and Borrego Springs subzones. This operational change is already in transition and County Fire will assume exclusive responsibility of the ASA as of October 1, 2023.
- County EMS Fees and the next Fiscal Year: The EMS Office is currently working closely with the County's Emergency Services Administration Unit to review LEMSA fees. The fees being reviewed are personnel fees, specialty care fees and EMS permit fees. More information will be forthcoming as the analysis and calculations take shape. If you have questions or comments, please send those comments to EMSNotifications@sdcounty.ca.gov.
- Upcoming State Paramedic Scope of Practice changes: The EMS Commission met in September and voted on a regulatory update to move TXA, ketorolac, ketamine, and IV acetaminophen from Local Optional Scope of Practice to basic scope, lowering the regulatory burden for LEMSAs adopting these treatment modalities. The vote passed and the next step in the process is for the decision to go through the California Office of Administrative Law. The EMS Authority anticipates this process will take multiple months before the changes are finalized. As of now, these medications remain as Local Optional Scope of Practice and we will provide an update once the regulatory changes go into effect.
- Health Officer Order for Annual Influenza Season: The annual influenza season is upon us. The health officer order is evergreen and in force through the designated influenza season (November 1-March 31). The influenza letter requires, among other things, that healthcare personnel (including EMS credentialed personnel) wear a mask in patient care areas if they choose to not be vaccinated for influenza. As a reminder, the "Jury Duty letter" has been discontinued, as any jury summons can be deferred for any reason anytime. You can view the health order here: [Health Officer Order \(HOO\) - Annual Influenza Season](#)
- Current Medication Shortages: County EMS is aware of multiple medication shortages and has issued guidance on albuterol and ketamine. Additional information on these medication shortages, as well as mitigation strategies, can be found

on our new Medication Shortages page.

- Medication Shortages Page: [Medication Shortages \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/medication-shortages)
- County EMS Office Holiday Closure Advisory:
 - Veterans Day, Friday, November 10th
 - Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 23rd
 - Day after Thanksgiving, Friday, November 24th
 - Christmas Day, Monday, December 25th
 - New Years Day, Monday January 1st, 2024

A. Buprenorphine Pilot Update – EMS Coordinator Tyler Meick

We are happy to announce that the prehospital buprenorphine pilot program “went live” on October 2nd. Beginning on October 2nd, units in Escondido and CSA-17 began screening opioid withdrawal and opioid use disorder patients utilizing the COWS score. Patients that meet criteria will be enrolled in the prehospital buprenorphine program. As a reminder, agencies will utilize Highland Hospital as an alternate base during the pilot program but will additionally make contact with their assigned base to determine destination or receive direction for any other medical complaints. Patients will be encouraged to connect with Substance Use Navigators within the Emergency Department, who will direct them to Medication Assisted Treatment. CoSD EMS is working with multiple stakeholders to bridge gaps in the EMS opioid response.

The CoSD EMS Office is also holding monthly meetings with regional Substance Use Navigators (SUN). During those meetings we hope to bridge communication gaps in the opioid response and connect community stakeholders.

At this point, we have not had a buprenorphine administration in the field. This is not unexpected as it is a low frequency use medication. We will be using data to help look for any “near misses” and look for opportunities to educate field crews on missed opportunities.

For any questions about this program, please contact Tyler Meick at tyler.meick@sdcounty.ca.gov

B. ECPR Pilot Program Update – EMS Coordinator Michael Assof

Provided a presentation on the [ECPR Dashboard Preliminary Data for July – September 2023](#)

V. POLICIES FOR REVIEW (Updates) (*Prehospital/Hospital*)

- P-882: EMS Dispatch Policy (coming soon)

Policy P-882 will likely be posted for public comment soon and be placed on the next Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee agenda.

VI. PROJECT UPDATE REPORTS (*Education and Research*)

C. City of San Diego Pilot – Cheryl Graydon on behalf of Dr. Chris Kahn

Due to the statutory authority for all community paramedicine pilot programs expiring, as of 11/1/23 the pre-pilot program (pre-2014) operations have been reverted. Case Management work continues due to having non-paramedic personnel on the team. Look forward to California EMSA approving the LEMSA’s community paramedicine application, then the LEMSA approving our program’s application so the full complement of community paramedicine activities can continue.

VII. NEW BUSINESS (*Education and Research*)

A. Update on Community Paramedicine Program – EMS Coordinator Tyler Meick

On 9/15 County EMS office submitted application; on 10/16 the State requested additional

information and County EMS submitted the requested information; on 11/6 the State reached back out for additional information. In the meantime, County EMS will continue to do everything possible to make this the best program.

B. Update on ECPR Pilot

The update on the ECPR Pilot was provided earlier under agenda item IV., B.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

IX. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2024, at 9:30 am.

The next EMCC Education & Research Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2024, immediately after EMCC.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 am.