



County of San Diego

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE (EMCC) MEETING

Paul Forney, Chair/ Lisha Wiese, Vice Chair
c/o SD County Emergency Medical Services Office
County Operations Center | Sheriff's STIC Facility
5575 Overland Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123

Minutes

Thursday, September 26, 2024

Members Present

Bojanowski, Michael – American Red Cross
Cote, R.N., Chara – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators
Forney, Paul – SD County Ambulance Association
Graydon, R.N., Cheryl – Emergency Nurses' Association
Hanks, Sgt. Michael – Law Enforcement Agencies
Jordan, Jonathan – SD County Fire Districts' Association
Kahn, M.D., Christopher – District 4
Murphy, Mary – County Paramedic Agencies Committee
Phillips, M.D., Julie – SD County Medical Society
Riley, Tobin – SD County Fire Districts' Association (Alt)
Rios, Matthew – Military Agencies
Sloane, M.D., Christian – District 5
Wiese, Lisha – Hospital Association of SD/Imperial Counties

In Attendance

Adams, Andrew - Documenters
Chandler, Craig
Embleton, Travis – SMG Fire
Lassiter, Sarah – Reach Air
Lopez, Brent – Reach Air Medical
Pearson, Nate – Carlsbad FD
Pitt, Eric – Grossmont
Rauto-Shin, Roxanne – Vista Fire
Safferman, Michelle – UCSD
Scott, M.D., Chris - Kaiser
Sullivan, Don – AMR

Not in Attendance

District 1
District 2
District 3
County Paramedic Agencies Committee
SD County Fire Chiefs' Association
SD County Paramedic Association

County Staff

Assof, Michael
Christison, Brian
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)
Haidari, Tareq
Meick, Tyler
Parr, Andy
Trousdale, Brad
Vithalani, MD, Veer

I. CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ INTRODUCTIONS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Paul Forney, EMCC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM. A quorum was declared.
- B. The group recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. There were no introductions.
- D. There were no announcements.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ PETITIONS

A public comment was made by Dr. Chris Kahn requesting that County EMS issue a clarification on the context from an article in the Union Tribune that discusses Palomar first responders should no longer take any patients on a hold.

ACTION: County EMS staff will look into it.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Christopher Kahn, seconded by Cheryl Graydon to approve the June 27, 2024 minutes. Motion carried.

IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee – Dr. Chris Scott on behalf of Chara Cote, RN

- Base Station redesign plan is moving forward.
- Update on the fentanyl dosage clarification.
- Public Comment period on 20225-26 protocols ends Oct 1.
- Clarification on updated Policy S-103.
- Brief presentation on radio consoles.
- Communications Failure Report is now online.

B. Education and Research Subcommittee – Cheryl Graydon, RN

Did not meet.

C. Disaster Planning Subcommittee – Lisha Wiese

County wide exercise occurring on October 24 8:00am-12:00pm; active shooter scenario at a soccer tournament at Liberty Station.

V. COUNTY REPORT

A. Administrative Report – Brian Christison, Program Coordinator

- Health Services Capacity Plan [Level](#): Plan Level 5 – Baseline Surveillance Southern California Fire Preparedness [Level](#): Plan Level 5
- 2025 - 2026 EMS Treatment Protocols: Request for EMS Community Input
The San Diego County EMS Office invites your input on potential revisions to the EMS treatment protocols for the 2025-2026 cycle.

All treatment protocols are available for comment between August 30 to October 1, 2024. To be considered for this protocol revision cycle, we must receive your comments no later than October 1, 2024.

Please provide your thoughts and suggestions by visiting the County EMS website to access the survey or using the link below.

Link: <https://forms.office.com/g/pPdVSLWLAD>

- New Requirement for Automated Cardiac Compression Devices on July 1, 2025
As agencies were informed at the Base Station Physicians' Committee meeting in March of this year, protocol S-103 language was revised to state that automated cardiac compression devices will become mandatory for all ALS ground ambulances on July 1, 2025. This requirement was included in the educational materials distributed to all EMS agencies with the revised protocols on May 1, 2024.

We are providing early notification of this requirement in appreciation of its substantial fiscal impact and the need for inclusion in the budgeting process for the next fiscal year.

- San Diego County Trauma System Celebrates 40 Years of Service:
On August 1, 1984, the San Diego County Trauma System was developed, becoming one of the first coordinated multi-center trauma systems established in the United States. The San

Diego County Trauma System is a successful public-private partnership between the San Diego County EMS Office and the six designated trauma centers.

In the last 40 years, over 375,000 injured patients have received exceptional specialty care among those six trauma centers, putting the preventable death rate in the County of San Diego from traumatic injuries to now less than one percent.

On July 16, the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors commended the San Diego County Trauma System for their outstanding service, leadership, and commitment by issuing a proclamation declaring August 1, 2024 as "San Diego County Trauma System Day".

- Job Opportunities at County EMS:

The San Diego County EMS Office is currently seeking applicants for a number of positions. These positions may be full time employees of the County, and others may be in a temporary position – in the County classification system, these positions are called Temporary Expert Professionals or TEPs. TEP work may be full or part time. The County is currently in the recruitment process for Quality Assurance Specialists, in both full-time and temporary positions. Emergency Medical Services Specialist hiring list may be opening soon. The EMS Office is internally hiring an Admin Analyst II and an Epidemiologist II for our work on future projects and possible system redesign. Interested persons considering employment with County EMS with the following expertise are highly desirable:

- EMS quality assurance,
- emergency operations and planning,
- EMS system innovation,
- and those with experience in emergency telecommunications, data analysis, and EHR integration.

Please see the County's employment website for more information and/or share your CV with the hiring team at Nicole.DelToro@sdcounty.ca.gov

National Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project:

The National Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project (PPRP) assessment closed on July 31, with a 46% response rate nationally (over 7,000 prehospital providers participated). For California, the response rate was 55%, for San Diego County the response rate was 91%.

This is a fantastic achievement, and we would like to extend a special thank you to all of the EMS providers that took the time to participate in the assessment. The data is currently being cleaned and analyzed by the EMSC Data Center, which will take several months. The state results are expected to be available by the end of the year.

The EMSC Innovation and Improvement Center created excellent NPPRP Toolkits, which contain resources on education and competencies, equipment and supplies, patient and medication safety, and quality and process improvement to name a few.

You can access the NPPRP Toolkits here: [Toolkit • EIIC \(emscimprovement.center\)](#)

- Statewide CA EMS Awards Nominations:

EMSA is currently accepting nominations for the 2024 California EMS Awards. The nomination deadline is December 31, 2024. We encourage all EMS providers, supervisors, and managers to submit nominations for individuals they believe are deserving of recognition.

You can submit a nomination here: [CA EMS Awards Nominations | EMSA](#)

- Welcome Chula Vista Fire to the LEMSIS System!

On July 1, 2024, Chula Vista Fire Department adopted the LEMSIS System for their ePCR needs. They are also using LEMSIS for their Fire Service reporting. Agencies who use the LEMSIS System are fully compliant with EMSA dataset requirements as well OD Maps submittals. The LEMSIS product is always improving and adapting to the adjustments in the dataset, in the user experience, and the availability for "service" from the LEMSIS. The very active user group makes suggestions to improve the product monthly. The San Diego County Fire EMS Bureau provided the training to the Chula Vista crews in their own areas. The LEMSIS welcomes Chula Vista to the LEMSIS family.

- Current Medication Shortages:

San Diego County EMS proactively monitors medication accessibility to detect impending shortages. To avoid systemwide deficiencies, EMS Agencies are requested to complete our new online form to:

- provide advanced notification of potential shortages; or
- request a temporary waiver of par level requirements

The new form can be accessed on our Medication Shortages webpage: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/ems/medication-shortages.html>

We are currently aware of potential systemwide shortages in dextrose 10%, epinephrine, ketamine, activated charcoal, sodium bicarbonate, and atropine (multi-dose vial). Agencies are advised to monitor their inventories and take proactive measures to avoid issues with par level compliance.

- County EMS Office Holiday Closure Advisory:
Labor Day, September 2, 2024
Veterans Day, November 11, 2024
Thanksgiving, November 28-29, 2024

B. Base Hospital Trauma Catchment – Andy Parr, EMS Administrator

The following PowerPoint was shared: [Base Station Hospital & Trauma Catchment Area Reports](#)

VI. SYSTEM POLICY REVIEW (Endorsement Vote)

There are no policies for review.

VII. REPORTS

A. Buprenorphine Induction Initiative Update – Tyler Meick, EMS Coordinator

The Buprenorphine Induction Initiative Pilot Program went live on October 2, 2023. The initial roll out was a single paramedic ambulance unit. The pilot has expanded to three participating agencies in covering four geographical regions and 11 paramedic ambulance units. So far, nearly 200 providers have received focused training. County EMS remains engaged with pilot program participants and the hospital-based Substance Use Navigator community to ensure effective patient handoffs.

B. EMS Corps Program Update – Tareq Haidari, Program Coordinator

The EMS Corps Program is a new EMT job training program coming to San Diego County. EMS Corps is focused on providing a pathway into the EMS field for transitional aged youth, ages 18-26 from underserved communities, that may also be impacted by the justice and or child welfare system. This program is a nationally recognized model, and the LEMSA is pleased to support getting this initiative off the ground. The expected start date for the first cohort is June 2025.

C. ECPR Pilot Program Update – Michael Assof, EMS Coordinator

Concluded the first year of the ECPR Pilot Program (July 1, 2023 – July 1, 2024). During that time, there were 85 hospital ECPR alerts in total and 64 (75%) met criteria in S-127A. This signals a need for continued education on inclusion criteria. Additionally, will continue to focus on improving the three measurable goals of the program. Currently, there are three hospitals participating in the pilot program: Sharp Grossmont, Sharp Memorial, and Scripps Memorial La Jolla.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. A request to create a formal S-010 Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee regarding ambulance diversion policy

Dr. Chris Scott had made a motion that a subcommittee be formed to assist the reformation for ambulance diversion. This subcommittee would gather information from other stakeholders, to then use that information for redesigning this policy.

Dr. Scott is now in support of removing that motion and allowing the Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee to work directly with the LEMSA to get these discussions going about how to engage stakeholders appropriately to gather information.

ACTION: County EMS agreed in the coming months or weeks to hold a virtual Town Hall for input.

ACTION: Dr. Scott has withdrawn his motion to create an S-010 subcommittee, and the committee will accept the Town Hall concept.

- B. Meeting location for November meeting

An invitation was made by member Michael Bojanowski to have the November EMCC meeting at the USS Midway.

A motion was made by Paul Forney to accept the invitation to the USS Midway for the November EMCC Meeting. Motion carried by consensus.

X. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next EMCC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 24, 2024, 9:30 am at the County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Hwy, Rm 302, San Diego 92101. Meeting adjourned at 10:45am.