



County of San Diego

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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MISSION STATEMENT

“As advisors to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, the Mission of the Emergency Medical Care Committee is to be an advocate for the community through the development of strategies for continuous improvement of the emergency medical services system.”

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE (EMCC) MEETING

Mike Rice, Chair/ Linda Broyles, R.N., Vice-Chair

Minutes

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Members Present

Abbott, Stephen – District Five
Adler, Fred – District Three
Broyles, R.N., Linda – Co. Paramedics Agencies Committee
Carlson, R.N., Sharon – Hosp Assoc of S.D./Imperial Counties
Green, R.N., Katy – District One
Jacoby, M.D., Jake – District Four
Leigh, Chief Bob – S.D. County Fire Chiefs Association
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – District two
Rice, Mike – Ambulance Association of San Diego
Rothlein, Lt. Jason – Law Enforcement Agencies

Vacant Positions

League of California Cities
San Diego County Fire Districts Association
San Diego County Medical Society
San Diego Emergency Physicians’ Society

In Attendance

Forman, Kelly – Mercy Air
Rod, Rick – S.D. City EMS
Russo, R.N., Joe – Rural Metro
Saltzstein, Doug - NCTI
Workman, R.N., Debra – Palomar
Community College

County Staff

Conte, Meredith
Haynes, M.D., Bruce
Metz, Marcy
Smith, Susan

Recorder

Wolchko, Janet I.

Border Health
California Children Services
Community Epidemiology
Emergency & Disaster Medical Services
HIV, STD and Hepatitis
Immunization
MAA/TCM Program
Maternal, Child and Family Health Services
Public Health Laboratory
Public Health Nursing
Tuberculosis Control & Refugee Health
Vital Records

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mike Rice, Chair, brought the meeting to order at 9:08 am. Attendees introduced themselves.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

There were no public comments or petitions submitted.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Jacoby, seconded by Fred Adler to approve the EMCC minutes from May 23, 2013. Motion carried.

IV. STANDING SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Prehospital/Hospital

The following policies were reviewed by the EMCC Prehospital/Hospital meeting on July 11, 2013 and forwarded to the full EMCC for final review.

1. P-303, Mobile Intensive Care Nurse – Authorization/Reauthorization
 - Reauthorization process: Add statement: online continuing education classes do not qualify for MICN reauthorization credit.
 - Change Division of Emergency Medical Services to Emergency Medical Services Branch.
2. P-806, ALS First Responder Inventory

Updated changes to reflect BLS inventory list in policy S-103.
3. S-836, Critical Care Transport Unit Inventory
 - Policy was sent out to CCT programs for feedback.
 - Par levels were changed
 - Moved EtCO₂ detection device to *Optional*
 - Delete some of the suction catheter sizes to match S-103
 - Correct spelling of Defibrillator

A motion was made by Mary Meadows-Pitt, seconded by Sharon Carlson to approve the changes made to P-303, P-806 and S-836. Motion carried.

B. Education and Research

There was no report.

C. Disaster/Operations – Sharon Carlson, R.N.

1. September is Emergency Preparedness month.
2. October 5, 2013, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm is the Sharp Healthcare Second Annual Disaster Expo. There will be community education on how to be prepared at home for a disaster. Hazmat, San Diego Fire, AMR and Search and Rescue will be participating. There is also an opportunity to purchase disaster supplies at a discount. A flier will be distributed to EMCC.

V. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS LETTERS – Marcy Metz

A. Ambulance Spare Tire Exemption

A Board letter for spare wheel requirement exemption is prepared every two years and submitted to the Board of Supervisors for approval. The Board Letter is reviewed by EMCC for approval and then submitted to the Board of Supervisors. Once the Ambulance Spare Tire Exemption has been approved by the Board of Supervisors it will go into effect the beginning of next year.

Motion made by Linda Broyles to approve the Ambulance Spare Wheel Requirement. Motion carried.

B. Ambulance Ordinance

The Ambulance Ordinance first reading went before the Board of Supervisors meeting on July 16, 2013. The second reading will be on July 30, 2013. The Ordinance will become effective 30 days after the second reading approval which should be in September.

VI. COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE – Dr. Bruce Haynes

A. Community Paramedicine provides healthcare to underserved areas with limited resources in the community, and may expand the roles of paramedics. A need for additional resources may be driven by population growth and aging, rising prevalence of chronic diseases and increased health care coverage consequent to the Affordable Health Care Act.

B. The State EMS Authority report on areas of Community Paramedicine services include:

1. Prehospital

- Transport of patients with specified conditions not needing immediate emergency care to alternate, non-emergency locations.
- Determining whether it is appropriate to refer or release an individual at the scene of an emergency response rather than transporting them to a hospital emergency department.
- Address needs of frequent 911 callers or frequent visitors to emergency department by helping them access primary care and social services. San Diego has had success with their EMS Resource Action Program (RAP) that seeks to reduce dependence on EMS and acute care services by linking the individual with appropriate resources for their underlying medical, mental health, and social needs

2. Post-Hospital or Community Health Services

- Provide follow up with patients recently discharge from the hospital at an increased risk of readmission.
- Provide support for persons with diabetes, asthma, congestive heart failure or multiple chronic conditions. Home visits and monitoring of those conditions.

- C. The State released information on letters of intent for those who would like to submit an application for a demonstration project.
1. Training for the medics would involve 150 to 200 extra hours of training.
 2. Entry requirements for the training would include four (4) years experience for medics and a preference for people with an AA degree or higher academic degree.
 3. There will be a State and local committee for evaluation of safety and efficacy.
 4. Deadline for submission of letters of intent is September 30, 2013.
 5. A local Project Steering Committee will be established for each pilot site to monitor programs and data collection at the local level. Funding would be local responsibility.
- D. Discussion:
- County's position is that the program would be beneficial, effective and safe
 - Stakeholders interest
 - Cooperation and operating under one program
 - County staff oversight – to be discussed further
 - Challenges with re-triage in emergency hospital settings, senior centers and assisted living
 - Training and education for urgent care and hospital continuation of care
 - Psychiatric patients, destination for psychiatric patients, and psychiatric limited resources. Benefit to emergency departments to have guidelines regarding who can be taken to psychiatric hospital emergency rooms, and medical clearance.

VII. EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Bruce Haynes, M.D.

- A. Chula Vista Fire is the newest County ALS First Response Agency.
- B. EMOC's 8th Annual Emergency Care Summit is Thursday, November 7, 2013.
- C. Influenza:
- Use of quadrivalent vaccines instead of trivalent vaccines used in the past
 - Determining the best vaccine coverage for this year
 - Departments should have vaccines for employees and a vaccination policy for prevention of employees transmitting flu to patients and preventing employees from being off work during the height of the flu season.
- D. 2013 protocols are in place. If there are issues for correction, let EMS know.
- E. Temecula Valley Hospital facility is opening in September.
- F. Application for an additional aeromedical service in San Diego County has been submitted. It is required that dispatch services are available when there is more than one aeromedical service. The new aeromedical service headquarters will be in North County.

- G. After the San Francisco air crash on July 13, 2013, San Diego burn surge program and disaster services were reviewed. San Francisco inquired on San Diego's response program and bed capacity in such an emergency.
- H. A retirement party was given for Ginger Ochs who has participated in the EMS system through education and her work through San Diego Fire.

VIII. EMS STAFF REPORT - Marcy Metz

- A. Susan Smith was promoted to EMS Coordinator
- B. EMS open recruitments: Public Health Nurse, QA Specialist/Prehospital, and Administrative Services Analyst for County Service Area.
- C. *Sidewalk CPR* took place on June 4, 2013. Throughout the County there were 22 participating agencies at 36 locations giving instruction to the public on adult compression only CPR; 2,589 individuals were trained. Southern California counties that participated in the event reported a collective total of 14,465 individuals trained. This will be an annual event in June during CPR week.
- D. The *Strike out Stroke Day at the Padres* event to promote stroke awareness was held on June 22, 2013. Hospitals set up kiosks throughout Petco Park to conduct community education, screenings and to educate people on the five symptoms of stroke: Face, Arm, Speech, Time (FAST), and to call 911. 1500 t-shirt/ticket bundles to the game were sold.
- E. Beacon EMS Hub: The County and vendors, Digital Innovations and InfoTech, meet twice a week to set a schedule and time line, and identify clinical fields. Estimated time of completion is in November.
- F. First Greyhound Ambulance's County ambulance permit has been suspended. An appeal hearing was conducted last week. The decision to suspend was upheld. First Greyhound Ambulance has an option to go to second level of appeal. The suspension was for: use of unlicensed personnel in their ambulances; improper stocking of the ambulance and improper maintenance; and uncooperative during an investigation.

IX. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next EMCC meeting is September 26, 2013. EMCC does not meet in August. Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.

Submitted by,

Janet I. Wolchko, Administrative Secretary III
County of San Diego, Emergency Medical Services