



# County of San Diego

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AGENCY DIRECTOR

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY**  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

## 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

Daryn Drum, Chair/ Linda Rosenberg, R.N., Vice-Chair

### Minutes

Thursday, October 22, 2015

#### Members Present

Abbott, Stephen – District 5  
Adams, Jason – American Red Cross  
Adler, Fred – District 3  
Carlson, R.N., Sharon – Hospital Assoc. of SD/Imp. County  
Drum, Daryn – County Paramedic Agency Committee  
Gardiner, R.N., Yana – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators (Alt)  
Kahn, M.D., Christopher – District 4  
Mednick, Cheryl – American Red Cross  
Parr, Andy – SD County Fire District Association  
Parra, Frank – SD Co. Fire Chiefs (Alt)  
Rice, Mike – Ambulance Association of SD County  
Rosenberg, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses Association

#### Vacant Positions

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

#### In Attendance

Abbott, Allison - Mercy  
Ommarney, Dodge – EMS University  
Osborn, Steve – Rural Metro  
Overcast, Mike - AMEX  
Pringle, John - WATER  
Scheck, Charlie – EMS University  
Schmidt, Melisa – Mercy Air

#### County Staff

Ameng, R.N., Diane  
Haynes, M.D., Bruce  
Mahoney, R.N., Meredith  
Metz, R.N., Marcy  
Wolchko, Janet I. (Recorder)

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## I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Daryn Drum, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.  
Attendees introduced themselves.

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## II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

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Mr. Mike Overcast requested to speak to EMCC to request assistance regarding a Mexico/US transfer issue. Mr. Overcast is representing American Medical Emergency Expedition and was formally the Mexico representative for the group in negotiating transfer protocols.

Mr. Overcast spoke at the January 2013 EMCC meeting when there was a new owner of SCORE International, desert off road racing. Kurt Caselli died during the November 2013 Baja 1,000 in Mexico. There is an inquest into the circumstances surrounding his death. A transfer occurred to bring his body across the border. Mr. Overcast stated that there was no autopsy, no determination of death and the circumstances surrounding the actions that occurred in Mexico were being covered up by SCORE International.

Mr. Overcast asked the committee for advice on what the necessary requirement is to transfer a body across the border, to determine if the transfer was done legally, and the protocol for documentation specifically with patient transfer.

Border Committee contact information was offered to Mr. Overcast by Melissa Schmidt regarding transport, proof of identity, autopsy and determination of death.

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## III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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**A motion was made by Chris Kahn, seconded by Jason Adams to approve the minutes from September 24, 2015. Motion carried.**

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## IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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**Chief Daryn Drum was nominated for a second term as EMCC Chairperson. Motion was made by Mike Rice, seconded by Frank Parra to elect Daryn Drum for a second term as EMCC Chairperson. Motion carried.**

**Chris Wells was nominated for EMCC Vice-Chairperson. Motion was made by Linda Rosenberg, seconded by Mike Rice to elect Chris Wells as EMCC Vice-Chairperson. Motion carried. Chris Wells was not present at the meeting and will be contacted to confirm her acceptance as EMCC Vice-Chairperson.**

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## V. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

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### A. Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee

There is no report; EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee did not meet this month.

### B. Education and Research Subcommittee – Linda Rosenberg, R.N.

The EMCC Education/Research Subcommittee did not meet this month.

Update on Community Paramedicine (CP):

- Carlsbad CP project started on October 9<sup>th</sup> they have not yet had any patients.
- City of San Diego/UCSD Institutional Review Board (IRB) document has been approved.
- An article in the Orange County Register about Orange County CP projects will be forwarded to the EMCC attendees.

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

1. The November Statewide Medical and Health Exercise and City Readiness Initiative mass prophylaxis drill is taking place the week of November 16-20, 2015.
2. Healthcare facilities participated in a pediatric patient tracking drill to practice tools developed to share names for identification during a disaster.
  - The drill included reunification and release of minors to their parents and covered issues regarding release of minors due to parent custody and proper identification. Acceptance of school documents was discussed. Triage tags were used.
  - The Pediatric Surge Plan for San Diego County was exercised by the hospitals. As part of the hospitals HPP14 Grant, they will be updating and reeducating on the pediatric surge plan.
    - At last month's Emergency Medical Oversight Commission (EMOC) EMS meeting a speaker from Israel stated that their practice is to take pictures as individuals come into the hospital, and put them in a central location for families to view.
3. Santee participated in a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) tracking children on scene during a disaster. Participants included 90 patients, 80 transported, four (4) school buses and ambulances.

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**VI. EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR - Bruce E. Haynes M.D.**

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- A. The Amiodarone, Lidocaine and Placebo Study (ALPS) trial through the Resuscitations Outcome Consortium (ROC) and UCSD is a randomize trial of cardiac arrest medications with amiodarone, lidocaine and placebo. They are within seven (7) to nine (9) patients of enrollment before closure of the trial. The trial is being conducted in the US and Canada.
- B. The new Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) document is out and includes some resuscitation changes.
- C. A drug shortage of morphine was reported, but seems to be resolved. There is some concern with the ondansetron drug and a warning use for pregnant women for nausea.
- D. Influenza season  
There has been a small amount of reported influenza cases. The vaccine is close to the isolates that are circulating around.

Determination of the Health Officer to mandate healthcare workers to be vaccinated or wear a mask for containment while they are in patient contact is based on the issue that individuals can be contagious before they show signs of the influenza illness.

- E. Field Transports
  1. The field is busy with a record breaking volume of transports and wall time issues. The Duty Officer has been responding to calls and informing hospital administration when units are backed up.
  2. An article regarding Rural Metro (RM) City of San Diego contract ambulance service was publicized. The article was addressing ambulance transfer compliance times. Staffing management and wall time issues are being addressed. Two (2) cases were sited where

patients were transported in the fire engine cab. RM is addressing volume and system compliance as well as contingency measures.

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**VII. EMS STAFF REPORT – Marcy Metz**

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- A. The Spare Tire Exemption Board Letter will go to the Board of Supervisors meeting on November 17.
- B. The Health Services Capacity taskforce met for their annual review of the Capacity Plan in preparation for the flu season. The taskforce is Co-Chaired by Dr. Wooten, MD, MPH, Public Health Officer, and Jamie Kramer as a public private partnership.
  - 1. Discussion topics and comments included:
    - Situational awareness actions were added to the capacity plan regarding ambulances waiting by the hospital and prehospital.
    - Documents are being finalized with a cover letter addressed to the hospital CEOs regarding ambulances waiting which decreases the availability of responses to 9-1-1 calls. The documents will be distributed November 1.
    - Daryn Drum added that the taskforce meeting did address the offload issue as a system issue. Prehospital should continue to identify extreme offload delays and contact the County Duty Officer who will follow up with hospital administration.
- C. EMS has seven (7) open staff positions and is actively interviewing and working with Human Resources for recruitment.
- D. The Request for Proposal (RFP) for Anza Borrego/Ocotillo is being finalized and will be sent to the State for review.
- E. Due to the EMS staff shortage, please allow time for renewal of your certification card. The County would be able to verify certification via a phone call from the provider if the card is not ready and the individual has a receipt. In March and September EMS is especially busy as groups of certification renewals are received.

Certification and accreditation is a core function of the EMS Branch. Additional training of staff is going on to have three (3) office assistants available to certify EMTs, Paramedics and MICNs.

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**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

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- A. EMS Fees  
No additional information on the updated EMS fee implementation.
- B. Mike Rice added that more data is being tracked from time of arrival to the hospital to time the patient is signed off to the hospital. Additional information:
  - 1. Sense of emergency on offload delays when the ambulance provider supervisor contacts the charge nurse who notes that they were already aware of an offload delay.
  - 2. Delays are an average of 1 ½ minutes longer than last year. The average time in San Diego County is 15 ½ minutes which leave turn around time at 5 minutes.
  - 3. Steve Abbott added that the North Zone Chiefs are considering the option used in San Bernardino. If there is an extended bed delay the option may be given to the patient to

decide where they want to be transferred due to offload delay or travel time. Throughput to the hospitals causes a fiscal and operational impact on emergency resources.

4. Daryn Drum suggested a meeting with prehospital and hospital administration, providing data (EPCR) to the CEOs so the hospital administrators know what issues have been addressed already through prehospital agencies.

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**IX. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT**

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The next scheduled EMCC meeting is January 28, 2016. EMCC is not meeting in November due to the Statewide Medical Health Exercise and the Thanksgiving holiday. EMCC does not meet in the month of December.

The meeting adjourned at 10:26 am.