



County of San Diego

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
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WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D., M.P.H.
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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)

Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee Meeting

Mary Meadows-Pitt R.N., Chair/Jim Marugg, Vice-Chair

6255 Mission Gorge Road, San Diego, CA 92120

Thursday, March 12, 2015

Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE

Members

Broyles, R.N., Linda – County Paramedic Agency Committee
Carlson, R.N., Sharon – Hospital Assoc. SD/Imp. County
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – District 2
Rosenberg, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses Association
Wells, R.N., Christine – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators
Workman, R.N., Debra – Paramedic Training Agency

County Staff

Ameng, R.N., Diane
Flores, Carlos
Haynes, M.D., Bruce
Mahoney, R.N., Meredith
Smith, R.N., Susan
Vassiliou, Elaine (Recorder)

Agency Representatives

Forman, Kelly – Air Methods
Johnson, Wayne – Rural Metro
Peltier, Patricia – AMR
Pierce, R.N., Jodie – SD Fire Department
Rod, Rick – City of S.D. Rural Metro

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Meadows-Pitt, EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Chris Wells, seconded by Linda Rosenberg to approve the minutes from January 8, 2015. Motion carried.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

There were no public comments or petitions submitted.

IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A motion was made by Chris Wells, seconded by Linda Rosenberg to nominate Mary Meadows-Pitt for the Chair position. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Sharon Carlson, seconded by Mary Meadows-Pitt to nominate Chris Wells for Vice-Chair. Motion carried.

V. OFF-LOAD ISSUES

A. County Influenza Watch information as of March 11, 2015 with data from Epidemiology and Immunization Service Branch.

1. The current influenza season totals are 6,234, with 129 Intensive Care Unit (ICU) cases and 72 deaths. Individuals who have died this year from influenza ranged in age from 51 to 104 years old. The average age was 84 years old.
2. The vaccine this year has had a relatively low effectiveness rate compared to past years. Current technology for producing flu vaccine is made in eggs and is time consuming.
3. A recent publication notes that some individuals can be asymptomatic, and still be infectious and spread the virus prior to showing symptoms.

B. Dr. Haynes reported on the number of Advanced Life Support (ALS) transports, patients who bypassed the requested hospital, total hours on emergency department (ED) bypass and total hours and overall percent of ED saturation.

1. There was a significant increase in the number of ALS transports in January 2015 as well as the number of patients who bypassed the requested hospital and the total hours of EDs on bypass.
2. Duty Officers have been involved with the hospitals communicating with the ED staff. The capacity plan is reviewed each year for updates. First Watch is also being utilized.

C. Increase in transport volume – Wayne Johnson

1. There have been an unprecedented amount of offload delays in the past few weeks and the most transports in the history of the City. There continue to be pocketed issues partially due to patient request.
2. There is an on-going discussion of possible solutions. Facilities have to determine the number of patients that can be admitted to their ED facility. Ambulance resource for new transport calls are limited due to the volume of ambulances that are delayed at the facilities.

3. Discussion topics include:
 - Facilities reviewing times of day the volume of offload delays are occurring. Agency supervisors following up on their ambulance delays.
 - Request by the patient to be transported to the hospital of their choice.
 - Influenza symptoms and testing as related to patient influx to hospital ED's and admission.
 - Contacting the Duty Officer, follow-up and documentation of the calls.
 - Process of triage.

VI. POLICIES FOR REVIEW – Carlos Flores

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- A. Policy P-302, Placement of Paramedic Interns in San Diego County was reviewed during the previous Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting, but the attachment was not available. The attachment is an application used for an individual to be accepted as an intern in San Diego County.
 - Attachment to P-302 was reviewed and changes will be made to update the form such as email information and signature from the contact agency.
 - The subcommittee discussed preceptor and agency contact information.
 - Policy P-302 draft and attachment draft with subcommittee suggested edits will be brought back at the next meeting for review.

VII. STAFF REPORT

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- A. Medical Director Report – Bruce E. Haynes, M.D.
 1. Ebola cases have decreased. Medical volunteers returning from West Africa are isolated and go through a screening process. Liberia has had no new reported cases of Ebola for the last two weeks.
 2. Literature has been published on how to manage stroke as well as the treatment of stroke using an advanced endovascular treatment with removing clots in the brain. There have been several papers on the benefit of receiving tissue plasminogen activator (tPA) first and then following up with the endovascular treatment to reduce the clot. The current system will be evaluated, and changes in policy will be made if needed.
 3. County trauma centers are audited every three (3) years in conjunction with the American College of Surgeons (ACS); 2015 is an audit year. There are six (6) trauma centers being audited, with four (4) out of six (6) centers having been completed. The two (2) remaining treatment centers should be completed in the next two (2) months.
 4. New regulations will be coming out soon regarding the use of EpiPens. EpiPens are used by individuals for the emergency treatment for life threatening allergic reactions. The regulations will affect people who are using an EpiPen as well as those who assist someone but who do not have a valid prescription. The people who have a valid prescription will not be affected by the new regulations.
 - B. EMS Staff Report – Susan Smith, R.N.
 1. *Love Your Heart Day* took place at 153 sites in the County on February 13th. Over 22,000 individuals were provided blood pressure screenings. Susan thanked everyone

- who participated in the event.
2. Adult and pediatric protocols have been reviewed. ALS skills policy S-104 is being reviewed as well.
 3. The Base Station Physician Committee (BSPC) and Prehospital Audit Committee (PAC) meetings have been moved to March 24th. The meeting will be held at Sharp Spectrum, second floor, Room 217.
 4. The Fourth Annual *Strike Out Stroke* event will take place on Saturday, April 25th at Petco Park. The baseball game will feature the Padres and the Dodgers. For additional information regarding tickets, please contact Diane Royer, EMS Quality Assurance Specialist.
 5. The date for *Sidewalk CPR* has not been determined. More information will be provided later.
 6. The County has a new BLS provider, Lifesaver Ambulance. The company is currently going through the inspection process. As soon as that is complete, they will go live.
 7. The Zone II contract has been awarded to Mercy Medical. This contract has been approved and will begin on April 1, 2015.
 8. Core measure data is still needed from some transport agencies. Please call Josh Smith for submission information.
 9. The annual *911 Conference* will take place on April 24th at the Vista Civic Center. One of the speakers will be psychiatrist Dr. Sergeant.
 10. The Emergency Medical Services Administration Association of California (EMSAAC) annual Conference will take place on May 27 and 28 in San Diego. Handouts were provided.
 11. The County Paramedic Agency Committee (CPAC) conference will take place the week of May 18-22.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 10:02 am.

Next EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting is on April 9, 2015.