



County of San Diego

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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

Daryn Drum, Chair/ Christine Wells, R.N., Vice-Chair

Minutes

Thursday, March 24, 2016

Members Present

Adler, Fred – District 3
Blacksberg, David – Hospital Assoc. of SD/Imp. County (Alt)
Carlson, R.N., Sharon – Hospital Assoc. of SD/Imp. County
Drum, Daryn – County Paramedic Agency Committee
Green, Katy – District 1
Maxwell, Paul – SD Co. Paramedic Association
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – District 2
Mednick, Cheryl – American Red Cross
Murphy, R.N., Mary – Co. Paramedic Agency Committee (Alt)
Parr, Andy – SD County Fire District Association
Parra, Frank – SD Co Fire Chiefs Association
Rosenberg, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses Association
Wells, R.N., Chris – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators

Vacant Positions

League of California Cities
San Diego County Medical Society
San Diego Emergency Physicians' Society
Bi-National Emergency Care Committee

In Attendance

Forman, R.N., Kelly – Mercy Air
Hartsock, Ryan – Advantage Ambulance
Lopez, Brent – Reach Air Medical
McCann, Erin – American Red Cross
Neill, Mark – Reach Air Medical Services
Ordille, Pete – Palomar College
Pierce, Jodie – SD Fire Department
Richardson, Eric – American Red Cross

County Staff

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

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Daryn Drum, EMCC Chair called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.
Attendees introduced themselves.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

There were no comments or petitions submitted.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Chris Wells, seconded by Linda Rosenberg to approve the minutes from February 25, 2016. Motion carried.

IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee – Chris Wells, R.N.

1. Review of A-475, Air Medical Support Utilization. Suggested changes were to replace the transport time calculation with a statement regarding ground transport time and helicopter transport time, destination criteria and utilization of auxiliary rescue aircraft. Policy A-475 will be forwarded to Base Station Physicians Committee (BSPC).
2. Review of S-400, Management of Controlled Substances of ALS Agencies. Discussion and comments included definition of controlled substances, security, tampering and theft, master vault supply storage and document retention. Policy S-400 is forwarded to BSPC for review and approval.

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

Community Paramedicine (CP) updates were presented at the subcommittee meeting. Both San Diego County pilot projects have State site visits this month. The following policies were reviewed, updated to match the regulations and approved:

1. Policy P-301, Paramedic Training Program Requirements and Procedures
2. Policy P-351, EMT Training Programs

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

A meeting will be scheduled after the May 4th Statewide Exercise. During the exercise hospitals will be practicing pediatric surge evacuation of NICU and alternate care sites.

V. EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR - Bruce E. Haynes M.D.

- A. The BSPC Cardiac Arrest Task Force met and is generating a Charter with the overall goal improve cardiac arrest survival statistics in San Diego County.
 - B. Center for Disease Control (CDC) has issued opiate prescribing pointers. They are available on the CDC website.
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VI. EMS STAFF REPORT – Bruce E. Haynes M.D.

- A. Marcy Metz visited the Santee Fire Department to thank and acknowledge the crews that responded when her husband had a cardiac arrest on Christmas morning. Bob Metz is recovering nicely. Dr. Haynes added that the nurses at Grossmont are also to be commended for their care.
 - B. Last week two (2) Prime owned hospitals had system hacker attacks that caused them to go on internal disruption. A similar situation happened at Hollywood Presbyterian, a ransom of \$17,000 bitcoin digital currency was paid to the hackers.
 - C. Explosive devices were set off in the Belgium airport. There were several casualties and injuries.
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- D. American College of Surgeons (ACS) was contracted by State EMS for a system evaluation of trauma in California. The entire state system is being evaluated.
- E. Aeromedical policies are being revised and will be reviewed at the BSPC meeting next week.
- F. The Health Information Exchange (HIE) San Diego Health Connect network applied for a Federal Grant through the State EMS. Included were San Diego County, Imperial County and Orange County.
- G. The Office of Emergency Services Statewide is going to be rewriting the Southern California earthquake plan.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. EMS Fees

There is no additional information to report on the EMS fee implementation. The item will remain on the agenda as a placeholder for updates.

B. Offload Delays

1. Offload delays seem to be increasing. A small informal operational core group has been reviewing offload issues from data received each day. A formal algorithm is being developed for the Duty Officer to evaluate what is happening in the hospital and to review their wall time.
2. A press conference is being held tomorrow at 11:30 am at the County Administration Center (CAC) to raise awareness of the offload issues. Dr. Wooten will be speaking on the use of emergency departments (ED) and to inform the public regarding additional options including looking at their medical needs ahead of time and when to go to an urgent care clinic or ED. The head of the Hospital Association will be there and Chief Butz who is the current President of the County Fire Chiefs will be speaking for the transport services. There will also be representatives from managed care facilities, community clinics and ER doctors.
3. The number of ED discharges has increased 40% over the last four (4) years while the population only increased 7%. Approximately 53% of the ED visits were nonemergency. In 2015, County hospitals have seen one (1) million patients. Since 2007 the number of ALS calls has increased by 40%, related transports increase by 38%.
4. Additional factors including volume are the aging population, psychiatric and behavioral health patients.
5. Discussion/Comments:
 - Potential use of the base hospital allowing re-triage from the paramedic on scene regarding paramedic level of transfer. Some of the State Community Paramedicine (CP) program pilots are redirection of patients transporting to alternative care sites.
 - County Health and Human Services raised the Capacity Plan activation to Level 2. Public awareness campaign, next step plan and a message to community has been suggested. An intermediate step plan with a six (6) months plan has also been discussed.

VIII. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

Announcement: City of Carlsbad Fire Department is hosting a First Watch meeting, 2 pm

this afternoon at their Safety Center. It will be similar to the WebEx they recently hosted showing the option of Transfer of Care marking.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 am.

The next EMCC meeting is scheduled on April 28, 2016.