



County of San Diego

NICK MACCHIONE, FACHE
AGENCY DIRECTOR

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
6255 MISSION GORGE ROAD, MAIL STOP S-555
SAN DIEGO, CA 92120-3599
(619) 285-6429 • FAX (619) 285-6531

WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D., M.P.H.
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/ Christine Wells, R.N., Vice-Chair

Minutes

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Members Present

Adler, Fred – District 3
Blacksberg, David – Hospital Assoc. of SD/Imp. County (Alt)
Green, Katy – District 1
Kahn, M.D. Christopher – District 4
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – District 2
Mednick, Cheryl – American Red Cross
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

Fish, Robert – Cal Fire SD
Forman, R.N., Kelly – Mercy Air
Peltier, Pat - AMR
Pierce, Jodie – SD Fire Rescue

County Staff

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

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chris Wells, EMCC Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.
Attendees introduced themselves.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

There were no comments or petitions submitted.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A quorum of members was not present to approve the April 28, 2016 minutes.

IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee

1. A-876, Air Ambulance Dispatch Center Designation/Dispatch of Air Ambulance

Brett Eldridge presented updates and changes to the policy.

a) Definitions added:

- Primary response air ambulance description
- Closest most appropriate defined
- Estimated time of arrival wording

b) Added to Policy description:

The designated air ambulance dispatch agency shall enter into an agreement with EMS air ambulance service providers for air ambulance dispatch services including fee for dispatch services incurred to offset operational costs.

c) Remove instruction on answering the phone.

d) Remove responsibilities of Dispatch Agency to maintain an updated list of all landing pads in the county.

e) Added to dispatch procedure:

- If the ambulance originally dispatched to an area is unavailable, the next most appropriate permitted San Diego based primary response air ambulance regardless of agency will be dispatched.
- The designated dispatch center shall use discretion when dispatching the closest most appropriate when aircraft are already airborne.
- In the event that air ambulance provider is contacted directly for a pre-hospital EMS response, the call information shall be transferred to the designated dispatch center to ensure the closest most appropriate Primary Response Air Ambulance is dispatched to the incident.

f) Air ambulance unit dispatch center for responses:

When more than one air ambulance is based within the same designated dispatch map grid, the aircraft are considered co-located and will be dispatched as first unit on a monthly rotational basis.

g) Posting locations used at the discretion of the provider if appropriate rest area are available for the flight crews. Removed periods of six (6) hours or less.

h) Air ambulance providers notify EMS in writing ninety (90) days prior to moving or adding a base.

2. Discussion:

a) Mapping technology:

- Available technology with respect to types of Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) products was discussed. Dispatch standard for air that is currently utilized by ground ambulances.
- County resources include four (4) air ambulances. Currently the closest in County permitted aircraft is being dispatched.

b) Due to the Airline Deregulation Act of 1978 LEMSAs are not permitted to mandate the use of specific Automated Vehicle Location (AVL) products.

Designated dispatching agency procedure:

- Calls come in to dispatch, the dispatch agency calls AMR, AMR calls the requesting agency. Statistics are updated on location of closest units and if they are in use.
- The call process was discussed with regards to using technology and the use of the grid system in air ambulance dispatch. Phone calls are for determining which resource is available and not to determine who is the closest.

3. Follow-up:

- Provide data and more information on the grid system versus the technological system, prices, and implementation to give the group a knowledgeable decision and to provide the community with the best medical care.
- Prehospital subcommittee will re-examine the policy at the next meeting.

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

San Diego and Carlsbad Community Paramedicine projects had their State Advisory Committee site visits. Each program gave a presentation on their progress and challenges. The State will be reporting on the site visits.

C. Disaster/Operations Subcommittee – David Blacksberg

On May 4th there was a full scale exercise involving hospitals and alternate care sites. After action reports are being developed. Pediatric evacuation was practiced during the exercise and Triage by Resource Allocation Inpatient (TRAIN) method of categorizing patients was utilized based on a color code system of tracking. The TRAIN method is being reviewed for adult hospital evacuation transport including wheel chair and gurney evacuation, Advanced Life Support (ALS), Basic Life Support (BLS), Critical Care Transport (CCT), etc.

V. ANNEXATION OF CSA-107 TO CSA-17 FOR AMBULANCE SERVICES – Andrew Parr

Chief Parr is now working for EMS as a temporary expert professional. One of the projects he will be working is the annexation of CSA-107 into CSA-17 for ambulance services.

Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District applied to annex portions of CSA-107 Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove fire service area west of Escondido, south of San Marcos eastern Rancho Santa Fe area. The annexation has moved quickly to allow service by July 1st.

In the terms and conditions of the Rancho Santa Fe Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) application they are asking for the expansion of CSA-17 ALS services to the Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove area. CSA-17 covers the Elfin Forest area with ALS. The Harmony Grove area and its expansion is currently served with BLS ambulances.

County staff has been determining tax rate areas, the number of transport calls and the impact on providing ALS services to the Harmony Grove area.

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

A. Fire protection services in the County are reviewing the threat for the upcoming fire season. EMS is reviewing their Burn Surge Plan for areas where a fire is progressing rapidly, where people might be trapped and where areas are faced with rapid evacuations in large numbers of burn patients.

The burn surge plan is used for distribution of burn patients to trauma centers and hospital facilities. The severely burned patients are transported to UCSD. Once UCSD reaches capacity, patients are transported to another trauma center for care and then transferred to UCSD or to an out-of-county burn center as beds are available.

- B. The Capacity Taskforce meets today on how to continue to reduce the number of offload delays. First Watch will be receiving data from hospitals for their reports.
- C. AB15, End of Life
Legislation was passed in special session for a person's right to receive *end of life* prescription medication if they have been evaluated by a physician and have a terminal illness with an estimated time of life no more than six (6) months.

EMS sent a memo to the field with information regarding what to do if there are complications and health providers that can deliver medication according to Health and Safety Code 1797. Clarification will be obtained by County Council.
- D. The Heat Plan was reviewed and updates are being considered.
- E. System protocols went out for review. Please contact EMS with comments.
- F. A policy for 9-1-1 frequent users may be developed with information on stabilizing users, to determine the reason they are calling 9-1-1 so often, and for prevention.
- G. A subcommittee of the Base Station Physicians Committee (BSPC) has been established to review cardiac arrest and how to improve the survival rate. Increasing CPR training is currently the main focus. The CARES registry will also be a critical part.
- H. The County stroke system is in its fifth year. A full report will be release to the public. The report will show the process indicators such as door to needle time and the improvement to the system.
- I. The National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) addressed Federal Legislation and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reviewing the issue of physicians prescribing narcotics. Under DEA regulations the prescription would have to be for a particular patient which could be an issue with the EMS field and administration of pain medication.
- J. The State is reviewing changes in the EMT scope of practice for the use of naloxone.

VII. EMS STAFF REPORT – Susan Smith

- A. *Sidewalk CPR Day* totals for individuals trained in hands only CPR is 3,328. Everyone was thanked for their participation.
- B. The *Strike out Stroke Event* at Petco Park is on June 4th. A flier on the event was available to the EMCC.
- C. EMS certification continues to be busy. It was reminded that EMTs, MICNs and Paramedics should come in early for certification or renewing their certification. The certification desk is now accepting debit and credit card payments.
- D. EMS is in the final stages of the NEMSIS compliant data procurement selection.
- E. First Watch will have a timeline regarding data collection and rollout.
- F. Temecula Valley Hospital was designated as a STEMI/Stroke center by Riverside

County. EMS is working with them to share QI data. Patients in the area will be able to be taken to Temecula Valley as the closest STEMI stroke center.

- G. Rob Wester will be filling in part time for the EMS IT position that was formerly held by Max Carreon. Charlene Ramet will continue to do password resets.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. EMS Fees will be on the meeting agenda as a placeholder. Any fee changes will be at least a year away.
- B. Offload Delays were mentioned earlier in the meeting with information on First Watch data rollout.

IX. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.
The next EMCC meeting is scheduled on June 23, 2016.