



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

Minutes

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Members Present

Abbott, Stephen – District 5
Adler, Fred – County Supervisor District 3
Carlson, R.N., Sharon – Hosp. Assoc. of S.D./Imperial Counties
Drum, Daryn – County Paramedic Agency Committee (Alt)
Gardiner, R.N., Yana – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators
Kahn, M.D., Christopher – District 4
Maxwell, Paul – SD Co. Paramedic Association
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – County Supervisor District 2
Parr, Andy – S.D. County fire Districts Association
Parra, Frank – S.D. County Fire Chiefs Association

Vacant Positions

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

In Attendance

Adams, Jason – American Red Cross
Forman, Kelly – Mercy Air
Mednick, Cheryl – American Red Cross
Osborn, Steve – Rural Metro
Peltier, Patricia - AMR

County Staff

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

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Meadows-Pitt, Chairperson of the EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee called the meeting to order at 9:10 am in the absence of Daryn Drum, EMCC Chair, and Linda Rosenberg, Vice-Chair.
Attendees introduced themselves.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

There were no public comments or petitions submitted.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Frank Parra, seconded by Sharon Carlson to approve the minutes from April 23, 2015. Motion carried.

IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee – Mary Meadows-Pitt, R.N.

1. Offload delays continue. An example was given regarding ambulance offload, anticipated delays and hospital bypass. Contacts were made to report the delays to the Duty Officer, the charge nurse, agency supervisor and hospital administration. Conversation continued on the reporting procedure and who will be contacted if there is an offload issue.
2. The Health Services Capacity Plan is reviewed annually. Agencies are invited to attend the Capacity Plan Taskforce when the plan is being reviewed.
3. Policy P-302, Placement of Paramedic Interns in San Diego County was reviewed and approved during the March 12, 2015 Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting. Minor changes were made including the addition of Advanced EMTs.

A motion was made by Frank Parra, seconded by Stephen Abbott to approve Policy P-302 with noted corrections. Motion carried.

B. Education and Research Subcommittee – Diane Ameng, R.N.

1. IRB approval for County Paramedic (CP) City of Carlsbad pilot program has been completed; City of San Diego IRB is under review. City of Carlsbad start date is in August and City of San Diego start date is in September pending on their IRB approval.

Paul Maxwell added that City of San Diego UCLA CP training is completed. The San Diego EMS Resource Access Program (RAP) is part of the City of San Diego CP pilot project which seeks to reduce dependence on EMS and acute care services. RAP medics use IPADs to connect and refer frequent 911 and 211 users with appropriate resources for their underlying medical, mental health, and social needs. Direction includes referral to homeless outreach or insurance 211 needs, where the referral should go and contact information.

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

1. May 20, 2015 Community Exercise
 - The exercise started 12 hours into the scenario of a power outage.
 - The after action report has not been completed but a couple of key items noted by hospitals and County OES included a fuel plan for Critical Access Employees, paramedics, EMTs and fire fighters to refuel transportation vehicles if the gasoline station pumps are out for a considerable time.
 - During the 2011 power outage, there was concern about the 'worried well' and individuals that have home treatment medical equipment needing a continuous power source. OES will set up centers (power

areas) by region with generators to accommodate those individuals who arrive at hospitals and need a power source for their equipment. Notice regarding the power centers could be accomplished via reverse 911 and 211.

2. November Exercise
 - Scenario is a max prophylaxis drill based on an anthrax terrorist event. Jack Walsh will be working with the hospitals and the County will set up Points of Dispensing (PODs) to practice dispensing medications. Hospitals have a plan to set up a POD to treat the Critical Access Employees and their families.
 - Discussion included security issues, tracking of medication, and medication delivery to hospitals and fire agencies.
3. Members of the Disaster/Operations Subcommittee will be contacted to set up a subcommittee meeting before the November drill.

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

- A. Protocol revisions for this year are completed. Discussion during review of the protocols included:
 1. Morphine use in the field and using Fentanyl as an alternative choice. Concerns included the potential for abuse, expense and availability.
 2. Prehospital spinal immobilization has been the standard for victims who have experienced a mechanism of injury (MOI). Studies by the National Association of EMS Physicians, the American College of Surgeons and a number of EMS agencies support an evidence-based approach in an effort to lessen unnecessary spinal immobilizations in the field. Appropriate spine injury assessment guidelines and algorithms allow for the selective immobilization of injured patients.

Long boards are valuable primarily for extrication of patients from vehicles. Prolonged use of spine boards can rapidly lead to pressure injuries and back pain.

3. Palomar Hospital is closing their downtown campus. Labor and delivery, and acute rehabilitation are being moved to the new facility. The urgent care clinic at the downtown hospital will be closed.
4. Studies and six (6) articles have shown that catheter use and endovascular retriever used on stroke victims to remove clots gave the patient a better functional outcome.

Stroke centers under the Joint Commission include a primary stroke center for intervention and administering intravenous tPA and a comprehensive stroke center that also practices endovascular procedures and has additional staffing of specialists. Discussion ensued on transportation to stroke centers and identification in the field for patients that may need endovascular procedures.

5. The trauma surgeons will be releasing a revised guidance for emergency departments and patients who are taking anticoagulants including how to reverse them and when to transfer them to a trauma center.

VI. EMS STAFF REPORT – Marcy Metz

- A. The *Sidewalk CPR* event that was held on June 4th included participation by 27 agencies at 31 locations. San Diego County trained 2,577 Individuals in hands only adult compression CPR; Southern California total was 20,035. The American Heart Association CPR week is the first week in June.
- B. EMS new employees/open positions:
 - 1. Office Assistant and Medical Records Technician start tomorrow.
 - 2. EMS Coordinator interviews have begun.
 - 3. Recruiting for a QA Specialist will be posted soon.
- C. County Fire Authority has contracted with Cal Fire and is designated as an ALS provider. Cal Fire will be assigning their ALS First Responder Paramedics to those positions. As of July 1, Pine Valley and surrounding rural areas will be under the County Fire Authority.
- D. The EMS Plan is in the process of being updated. When the plan is complete it will be sent to the State.
- E. Request for Proposal (RFP) in the Anza Borrego/Ocotillo area will be repeated. A community forum meeting was held on Tuesday June 23, 2015. A Statement of Objectives is being drafted. Paramedic services are currently being covered by Borrego Springs.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. There is no new information on the EMS fees. The item will be kept on the agenda in the event updated information is received.
- B. It was suggested to review and update the EMCC membership vacancies. It was noted that some organizations listed in the EMCC bylaws may not exist anymore. Organizations have been contacted regarding their membership vacancies.

VIII. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled EMCC meeting will be July 23, 2015.

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 am.