



County of San Diego

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
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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

Frank Parra, Chair/ Chara Cote, R.N., Vice-Chair

Minutes

Thursday, January 24, 2019

Members Present

Abbott, Stephen – District 5
Adler, Fred – District 3
Blacksberg, David – Hospital Assoc. of SD/Imp Counties
Cote, RN, Chara – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinator
Drum, Daryn – County Paramedic Agencies Committee
George, Sgt., Richard – Law Enforcement Agencies
Lyons, Laura – American Red Cross
Marugg, James – SD County Fire Districts’ Association (Alt)
Maxwell, Paul – SD County Paramedic Association
Meadows-Pitt, RN, Mary – District 2
Murphy, RN, Mary – County Paramedic Agencies Comm.(Alt)
Rosenberg, RN, Linda – Emergency Nurses’ Association
Scott, MD, Christopher – SD County Medical Society

In Attendance

Andora, Jason – Mercy Air
Caplan, Gregg – AMBU
Cumming, Steve – Mercy Air
deKlerk, Maude – RCCP
Evans, Chris – Boundtree
Martin, Geoffrey – SWCC
Meick, Tyler – Reach Air
Overcast, Michael – AMEX
Smith, RN, Zechariah – AMR/CSA17
Sullivan, Don – AMR
Yates, Judith – HASDIC

Not in Attendance

District 1
District 4
Bi-national Emergency Medical Care Committee*
League of California Cities*
Military Agencies
San Diego County Ambulance Association
San Diego County Emergency Physicians’ Society*
San Diego Fire Chiefs’ Association

County Staff

Christison, Brian
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)
Koenig, MD, Kristi
Lee, Chris
Osth, Cory
Pacheco, RN, Cheryl
Smith, PhD, Josh
Tuteur, MD, Jennifer

*Representative positions vacant

I. CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ INTRODUCTIONS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chara Cote, EMCC Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. The group recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions were made. There were no announcements.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ PETITIONS

There was a public comment made by Michael Overcast with American Medical Emergency Expedition (AMEX), who presented information on injury proceedings that occurred in Mexico during Baja Racing, which have resulted into lawsuits. The injuries are becoming more frequent. For additional information, Michael can be reached at amexnow@hotmail.com.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by James Marugg, seconded by Fred Adler to approve the October 25, 2018 minutes.

IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee – Chara Cote

Met and discussed several policies at Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting, which will be discussed later in this meeting during System Policy Review

B. Education/Research Subcommittee – Linda Rosenberg

Did not meet.

C. Disaster/Operations Subcommittee – David Blacksberg

Did not meet, but there are two upcoming exercises: 1) an exercise on May 7, 2019 for the hospitals in conjunction with County HHS. 2) a planned no notice evacuation exercise that will take place before the end of June for the hospitals and County HHS, which is required by the federal government.

V. COUNTY REPORT (Reports)

A. Clinical Report – Kristi Koenig, MD

1.) Surveillance

a. We are in flu season.

- 3,097 total cases, 24 deaths, 2 outbreaks. Across the country 6.2 to 7.3 million people with flu per CDC estimates.
- Health Officer Flu Order in effect.
- Jury Duty Excuse Letter – last year we will provide.
- Triggers met for enhanced surveillance on the capacity plan (from Baseline Level 5 to Enhanced Level 4) because of two triggers: respiratory complaints and ED bypass.

b. Ebola Outbreak is DRC declared August 1, 2018

- Challenging due to high insecurity – WHO reports suspended vaccination program and contact tracing

- With 600 confirmed cases and 343 deaths recorded since August 2018, the outbreak is the second largest ever after the massive epidemic that struck West Africa 5 years ago and killed over 11,000.
- Second largest outbreak in history, but the risk to spread globally remains low.
- Reviewing CDPH guidance – Rady's for children, Cedars-Sinai for adults

2.) Policies and Protocols

- a. Remain on track for ketamine implementation for analgesia on July 1, 2019
- b. Reminder that IV acetaminophen is approved for treatment of pain and NOT for fever.

3.) Initiatives

- a. 12-lead EKG transmission to receiving hospitals – CAC reported high percentage of false positive cath lab activations.

There was a long discussion amongst the committee members on EKGs and valid patient identifiers such as not being able to identify who the EKGs belong to.

Action: It was suggested that this topic be moved to the Prehospital/ Hospital Subcommittee for review and input and bring back some recommendations.

- b. Will be applying to the State for Unified Operational Scope of Practice for California within Qualified Transport Programs
 - Six separate procedures are included in this optional scope:
 1. Pediatric intubation
 2. RSI medication administration including sedative, paralytics, analgesics, and induction agents.
 3. Video laryngoscopy
 4. Supraglottic airway devices
 5. Ventilator initiation, maintenance and management
 6. Intraosseous (IO) access for adult and pediatric patients
- c. National Drug Shortages – continue work via NAEMSP Advocacy and Standards and Practice Committees – Top 10 and Top 5 for ASPR in follow up to a meeting
- d. Migrant Caravan Activities
 - Protect the health of the public, including families seeking asylum, by conducting health screening assessments in the setting of the San Diego Rapid Response Network shelter(s), referring for outside medical care as appropriate, monitoring daily reports for infectious diseases. Conducted 2400 health screening assessments for asylum seeking families only, with less than 1% to the emergency departments.
- e. Reminder re: Evidence-Based Medicine presentations from BSPC are posted online at medical director page – most recent was on “Hanging, Strangulation and Other Forms of Asphyxiation” by Dr. Steve Campman from the Medical Examiner’s office
https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/emergency_medical_services/medical_director.html

- f. Strangulation Educational Initiative – developing a CAHAN in collaboration with the DAs office, MAC, EMOG, SART and others with a goal for distribution in mid-February.

B. Administrative Report – Chris Lee, EMS Program Coordinator

- 1.) EMS Plan Data Requests – this data is necessary and is required before the LEMSA can submit the EMS Plan to EMSA. We thank the agencies that have submitted the requested data and encourage the agencies who have not submitted to do so asap.
- 2.) CARES Data for 2018 – the CARES State Coordinator needs the data entered in order to obtain outcome data from the receiving hospitals. We thank the transporting agencies who are up to date on entering the data into the registry and encourage the agencies who are participating in CARES who are not up to date, to enter their data asap.
- 3.) EMT Renewal – Effective July 1, 2019, EMTs who are renewing their certification must upload evidence of having received training in naloxone, epinephrine, and blood glucose testing. This training must have been provided by an approved EMT or paramedic training program, or by an approved CE provider. Submitting a Skills Competency Verification Form with the new skills signed off is not sufficient by itself. The EMT must have received formal didactic, skills training, and testing.
- 4.) Upcoming SAVE THE DATE – the next Love Your Heart event is on Thursday, February 14, 2019, Valentine’s Day. This is an annual event in which organizations from across the U.S. and Mexico join together to provide free blood pressure screenings to the public on Valentine’s Day. For agencies that are interested in joining or coordinating an event, can contact us for assistance or can visit livewellsd.org/love-your-heart for registration information.

a. Unified Service Area Report

We are continuing preparations for the RFP to be posted on Buynet. No further updates.

VI. TRANSFER OF CARE (TOC) REPORTING – Josh Smith

- A. We now have two sources of TOC data: LEMSIS data and FirstWatch data.
- B. Reminder that TOC is a vital indicator in our surveillance for our capacity plan.
- C. If there are errors with the destination field or the ambulance unit field, will most likely not have a TOC button. However, continue sending the reports to Josh Smith because if a pattern emerges, will need to take action.

It was noted that there are login issues on devices with FirstWatch, which is causing lower compliance. Josh will address this issue with FirstWatch.

VII. SYSTEM POLICY REVIEW (EMCC Advisory Position)

A. Discuss and Approve

- a. Policy S-414: Do Not Resuscitate – this has been the DNR policy for many years. New End-of-Life Option Act policies have now been merged into S-414 along with the flowchart being updated.

Recommended changes:

- **III, 9, a: strike “and/or area of ventilation when applicable”**
- **III, 9, d: add “(airway positioning, suctioning)” after comfort measures**
- **Last page, Flowchart: realign the last two bottom boxes**

Action: Policy S-414 will be brought back to the next EMCC in February with the recommended changes.

b. Policy S-803: Recovery of Prehospital Patient Care Reusable Equipment –

Recommended change:

- **III, B, 2: strike entirely**

A motion was made by Daryn Drum, seconded by James Marugg to approve Policy S-803 per the recommended change. Motion carried.

B. Policies Coming Before EMCC in 2019

- S-004: EMS System Quality Improvement – This policy is related to the EMS QA/QI plan that has been underway for the last year. Part of the updates are due to LEMSIS and the ability to exchange information more easily between all county EMS agencies and base hospitals. Coming in the near future.
- S-009: Guidelines for the Prevention of Transmission of Contagious and Contaminants This policy is being updated because of the new state law about EMS having to work with hospitals and the public health officer to manage patients who are deemed to be highly infectious. Currently working with our public health officer to present on this topic at this subcommittee.
- STEMI and Stroke Policies – Looking at new regulations and policies, and to fill our QA position. This will include updates to the specialty care designation process.
- 700 (Trauma) Policies – The following are being updated: the designation, de-designation, and other oversight policies and standards. The American College of Surgeons (ACS) changed their procedures slightly and we need to reflect some of those changes.
- P-804: QA/QI Policy – This policy is related to the EMS system quality improvement. To the subcommittee this spring.
- P-801: Designation of Providers of Advanced Life Support Service – This is a broad policy of the ALS provider agency requirements, both first responder and transport. Some of the current topics being reviewed include:
 - Response time criteria to reflect all county zones
 - Received direction from EMCC in October for looking at the alternative dispatch approval process
 - Under review, no exact time frame due to many items.
- Ambulance Ordinance – This is the County ordinance for air ambulance, ground ambulance and non-emergency medical transport. Being reviewed with updates, clarification and overall streamlining. Looking to change how the county oversees the non-emergency medical transport sector. Will bring in the air ambulance dispatch fee and developing penalties for EMS agencies that fail to comply with the Ambulance Ordinance. To the subcommittee by end of 2019.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Membership Update

There are currently eight (8) seats that are due for reauthorization:

- Emergency Nurses' Association, Seats 3 and 4
- San Diego County Paramedic Association, Seats 22 and 23
- Military Agencies, Seat 10
- Supervisor District 2, Seat 25
- Supervisor District 4, Seat 27
- Supervisor District 5, Seat 28

Members are eligible to two terms. If they want to renew their term, they must submit a nomination letter from their organization along with a completed and signed application to Nicole del Toro.

The following seats are open/ vacant:

- Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators' Committee, Seat 30
- Bi-national Emergency Care Committee, Seat 31
- League of California Cities, Seat 9
- San Diego County Emergency Physicians Society, Seats 16 and 17

It was noted that the San Diego County Emergency Physicians Society no longer exists, and there has been no response from the League of California Cities.

A couple of suggestions were made:

- 1.) Add a representative from the City of San Diego**
- 2.) The Bylaws need to be reviewed by the Disaster Planning Subcommittee to delete the two organizations that are not active and add others to replace them.**

B. Election – Chair

A motion was made by Daryn Drum, seconded by Christopher Scott that Frank Parra remain the Chair for the 2019 calendar year. Motion carried.

C. Election – Vice Chair

A motion was made by Daryn Drum, seconded by Christopher Scott that Chara Cote remain the Vice Chair for the 2019 calendar year. Motion carried.

D. Subcommittee Assignments – Review and Recommend Assignments

A motion was made by Christopher Scott, seconded by Daryn Drum that the current members in the subcommittees remain in their same assignments. Motion carried.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

Board of Supervisors K Policy Update –

On December 11, 2018, the Board of Supervisors approved Policies K-9 and K-12 as is, no changes, except for the revision of the sunset date now being December 31, 2025.

X. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next EMCC meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2019.

The meeting adjourned in honor of Patricia Peltier. Meeting adjourned at 11:08 AM.