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EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE (EMCC)

Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee Meeting

Brian Covell, RN, Chair / Julie Phillips, MD, Vice Chair
c/o SD County Emergency Medical Services Office
County Operations Center
5560 Overland Avenue, Rm 171, San Diego 92123
Thursday, February 13, 2025

Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE

Members

Covell, RN, Brian – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators
Forney, Paul – SD County Ambulance Association
Jordan, Jonathan – District 2
Muns, Harry – SD Fire Chiefs' Association
Phillips, MD, Julie – SD County Medical Society
Rauto-Shin, Roxanne – County Paramedic Agencies Committee

Agency Representatives

Bothwell, Aaron – SDFD
Chandler, Craig – Stryker
Clyons, Jeff – SD Fire Rescue
Killy, Kecia – Stryker
Lopez, Brent – REACH
Pow, Liza – Stryker
Scott, MD, Chris – Kaiser
Stauffer, Kim – SDFRD
Sullivan, Don – AMR

County Staff

Assof, Michael
Christison, Brian
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)
Haidari, Tareq
Sapida, Juliet
Trousdale, Brad
Vithalani, MD, Veer

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Brian Covell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.
- B. There were no introductions.
- C. There were no announcements.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Julie Phillips, seconded by Roxanne Rauto-Shin to approve the meeting minutes from September 12, 2024, October 10, 2024, November 14, 2024, and January 9, 2025. Motion carried.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

There were no public comments or petitions.

IV. COUNTY REPORT – Brian Christison, Program Coordinator

- Health Services Capacity Plan [Level](#): Plan Level 4 – Enhanced Surveillance (Level 1-5 – Five is Lowest)
Southern California Fire Preparedness [Level](#): Plan Level 3 (Level 1-5 - Five is highest)
- Flu and System Strain: The Flu Season is here and impacting the community. The EMS Office, together with Health Services Capacity Task Force sector representatives, is engaged in health system strain monitoring and mitigation actions. As a reminder, the “PHO Flu Order” is evergreen and is in force through the designated influenza season (November 1 – March 31). The flu letter requires, among other things, that healthcare personnel (including EMS Credentialed Personnel) wear a mask in patient care areas if they choose not to be vaccinated for the flu.
- EMS System Redesign Process Update:
Following the completion of the Comprehensive Evaluation of the Base Hospital System and Trauma Catchment Reports, the EMS Office is working to bring together representative stakeholder groups to support this project. As a reminder, a question-and-answer feature and the final reports and timeline information are posted on the [San Diego County Engage Page](#).
- Ambulance Diversion Town Hall Meeting Announcement:
Thank you to those who attended or participated in the Ambulance Diversion Town Hall meeting on January 31, 2025. We value the community's input regarding ambulance diversion practices and policies and look forward to identifying opportunities to improve our EMS delivery system. If you were unable to attend the town hall or have additional feedback to provide, please [complete our online form](#). This form will remain open until February 14. Thank you for your collaboration and for providing valuable feedback.
- Ambulance Ordinance Update:
The ambulance ordinance is undergoing an update to better align with current best practices and medical transportation standards. As part of this process, we want to hear from the community to help better understand their experience with the EMS delivery system and identify areas for potential improvement.

A survey is open to all stakeholders, including prehospital professionals, hospital personnel, agency administrators, specialty care centers, and the public. The survey can be accessed on the [San Diego County Engage Page](#) and is open from December 31, 2024, to February 14, 2025.

- New Requirement for Automated Cardiac Compression Devices on July 1, 2025:
As agencies were informed beginning in March of last year, protocol S-103 language was revised to state that automated cardiac compression devices will become mandatory for all ALS ground ambulances on July 1, 2025. This requirement was included in the educational materials distributed to all EMS agencies with the revised protocols on May 1, 2024.

We are providing early notification of this requirement in appreciation of its substantial fiscal impact and the need for inclusion in the budgeting process for the next fiscal year.

- Job Opportunities at County EMS: Juliet Sapida was introduced as the new EMS Quality Assurance Specialist.

The County is recruiting a temporary expert professional to support the EMS Corps program. These postings may be found on the County's job opening website.

- EMT Renewals – submit early! In the spring of odd-numbered years (2025, 2027, etc.), the County EMS Credentialing Team is inundated with EMT renewal applications. The monthly credentialing average is about 300 applications, swelling to over 700 in March. Agencies are asked to work with their EMT staff to make sure their applications are submitted early to avoid the rush.
- County EMS Fees and the next Fiscal Year: The EMS Office is currently working closely with the County's Emergency Services Administration Unit to review LEMSA fees. In 2024, the Board of Supervisors supported a phased three-year increase for personnel, specialty care, and permitting fees. More information will be forthcoming as the analysis and calculations take shape to validate the planned approach. If you have questions or comments, please email EMSNotifications@sdcounty.ca.gov.
- County EMS Office Holiday Closure Advisories:
President's Day – February 17, 2025 and Cesar Chavez Day – March 31, 2025

A. Draft Policies Posted for Public Comment – Michael Assof, EMS Coordinator

The following eight (8) draft policies were posted for public comment period for 30 days: P-401, B-450, B-451, S-306, S-070, S-883, S-883A, S-620. Currently working internally making revisions from the feedback that was received.

Three (3) policies will be moved for an endorsement vote today. The other five (5) will be reposted for a second round of public comments.

V. NEW BUSINESS – Michael Assof, EMS Coordinator

A. Non-Substantive Policy Updates for 2025-26 Protocol Cycle

1. P-410 Special Assignment Paramedic
2. S-411A Mandated Reporter Flowchart
3. S-412 Prehospital Treatment and Transportation of Adults – Refusal of Care or Suggested Destination, Release
4. S-601 Documentation Standards and Transferal of Prehospital Care Record (PCR) Information
5. Regulation re-chaptering

Changes of the non-substantive policies in draft form were discussed and provided to the group for review.

B. System Policy Review (Endorsement Vote)

1. P-401 Paramedic Scope of Practice
2. B-450 EMT Scope of Practice
3. B-451 Advanced EMT Scope of Practice

A motion was made by Dr. Julie Phillips, seconded by Paul Forney to endorse policies P-401 Paramedic Scope of Practice, B-450 EMT Scope of Practice, and B-451 Advanced EMT Scope of Practice. Motion carried.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

VII. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for March 13, 9:30 am. New location is at the COC, 5530 Overland Avenue, Rm 124, San Diego 92123. Meeting adjourned at 9:46 am.