



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
c/o Emergency Medical Services
Virtual meeting via Bluejeans

Minutes

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Members Present

Abbott, Stephen – District 5
Adler, Fred – District 3
Cote, R.N., Chara – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators
Covell, R.N., Brian – District 2
Froelich, Dan – County Paramedic Agencies Committee
Graydon, R.N., Cheryl – Emergency Nurses Association
Kahn, M.D., Christopher – District 4
McJannet, R.N., Catherine – District 1
Mednick, R.N., Cheryl – American Red Cross
Molloy, Bernie – SD County Fire Districts' Association
Parra, Frank – SD County Fire Chiefs' Association
Pearson, Danielle – County Paramedic Agencies Committee(Alt)
Scott, M.D., Christopher – SD County Medical Society

In Attendance

Beckert, Mark – Carlsbad FD
Caplan, Gregg – Ambu
Chandler, Craig - Stryker
Duffy, Jenny – SMFD
Hayflich, Vanessa – Mercy Air/AirMethods
Lord, Scott – Mercy Air
Martin, Geoffrey – Southwestern College
Seabloom, Lynn – Oceanside FD
Sloan, M.D., Christian – Mercy Air/North Zone
Smith, Zach – AMR/CSA-17
Sullivan, Don – AMR
Vilke, Gary – North Zone

County Staff

Beam, Jamie
Calzone, R.N., Lorraine
Christison, Brian
Conover, Bill
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)
Gall, R.N., Jessica
Koenig, M.D., Kristi
Lee, Chris
Parr, Andy
Rogers, Cody
Schoenheit, R.N., Candy
Sills, Robert
Smith, Ph.D., Josh
Tuteur, M.D., Jennifer
Yphantides, M.D., Nick

Not in Attendance

Hospital Association of SD & Imperial Counties
Law Enforcement Agencies
Military Agencies
SD County Ambulance Association
SD County Paramedic Association

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

Frank Parra, EMCC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Due to the meeting being virtual, the group did not recite the Pledge of Allegiance. In order to easily capture everyone's attendance, attendees were asked to enter their name and organization they were representing in the chat box.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ PETITIONS

There were no public comments or petitions submitted.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dan Froelich, seconded by Cathy McJannet to approve the April 23, 2020 minutes. Motion carried.

IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee

Did not meet.

B. Education/Research Subcommittee

Did not meet.

C. Disaster Planning Subcommittee

Did not meet.

V. COUNTY REPORT (Reports)

A. Clinical Report – Kristi Koenig, MD

i. COVID-19 Update

The County is continuing to focus on the 3-pronged approach to handle the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 1) Flattening the curve.
- 2) Increasing healthcare system capacity.
- 3) Working through an Incident Command System.

Flattening the curve:

- Using non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs). As we open up the economy, need to do what we can do maintain physical distancing, ensure are avoiding indoor close gatherings as much as possible, and public masking as the virus can be transmitted from asymptomatic people or presymptomatic people.

Increasing healthcare system capacity:

- Doing very well on all our metrics. Remain at Level 1 (highest level) on our Capacity Plan. Starting to see increases in prehospital patient and emergency department volume and acuity. Emergency department Influenza Like Illness (ILI) very low at 2%, which is expected at this time of the year. As we start having people going out into the community more, we may see that increase, so we are watching that very closely. Also closely monitoring for the upcoming

flu season. They are having mild season. Seeing decreases in many infectious diseases. Public health interventions work.

Two concerns: as we open up the county, there is a risk of increasing spread. Second concern: There is a potential for an influx of patients who are legal permanent residents or U.S. citizens who are seeking care for COVID-19 related illnesses. While we have the capacity now, opening up elective surgeries will increase PPE demands and reduce inpatient care capacity. We need to stay the course and can try to reduce our risk as much as possible. We are now focusing on T3 test, trace, and treat which is a big component of what we need to have in place to put out hot spots immediately should we see increased cases as we start opening up.

There was a discussion and questions regarding testing.

- The County's Situation Report provides the daily testing data.
- Dr. Jennifer Tuteur shared the following link to the County's coronavirus page that was created by the T3 group, which includes testing site information and lists the priority groups.

https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community_epidemiology/dc/2019-nCoV/testing.html

B. Administrative Report – Andy Parr

The following staff who have recently joined the County EMS team were introduced: Jessica Gall – Quality Assurance Specialist and Cody Rogers – EMS Specialist. Jaime Pitner – EMS Coordinator (replacing Susan Smith) will be joining soon.

Brian Christison shared additional actions of the following categories since the last EMCC meeting, which are also posted at www.sandiegocountyems.com.

- County Public Health Orders
- CoSD EMS Frequently Asked/Answered Question document updates
- CoSD EMS Local Optional Scope Approvals
- CoSD EMS Memos

- Health Services Capacity Task Force (HSCTF)
 - All Hazard Health Services Capacity Management Plan (activated throughout this season)
 - Expanded Operational Group calls

C. MOC Report – Rob Sills

Rob Sills, Public Health Preparedness Response Branch (PHPR) Chief, provided a MOC update on the following:

- Public Testing – Mobile and Static Testing sites, Strike Force teams to rapidly test outbreak site.
- Medical System Capacity – Continuing to support initiatives to support health system capacity
- Surveillance and Investigations – T3 Test, Trace, Treat. The goal is to have the capacity to test 5,200 a day within San Diego County on any given day.
- Clinical Coordination – Received the third allotment of Remdesivir from the state. 946 doses were issued to our hospitals yesterday and will receive another allotment next week.

Looking at keeping a supply of protective equipment on hand to provide to hospitals and first responders that are moving COVID-19 patients around. We are receiving some things from the state. Have roughly 480 individuals within the MOC who are responding to this with the County.

Dr. Nick Yphantides shared the latest updates on Imperial County. There were some challenges that had occurred. The San Diego/Imperial County Region is on the Federal and State radar screen. El Centro received many individuals from Mexicali, and many individuals from El Centro and Pioneers needed to be transferred out. This was due to an increase of traffic coming north through Calexico into the Imperial County Region that only has two facilities. The State has had an active role. The individuals were evacuated out of Imperial County through the State's all access transfers centers and by facility to facility transfers. Some of those individuals got transferred as far away as Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Orange County, Riverside, and San Diego.

A group from HHS and the CEOs from San Diego hospitals that are most impacted by the border had a virtual cross border call with the Administer of Health from Baja. Tijuana and Baja are still very delicate. Their ICU capacity has improved a little bit and yet at the same time they are opening up their regional commerce capacity.

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

Data for March and April has been updated on the dashboard. All TOC metrics have been very low.

VII. SYSTEM POLICY REVIEW (EMCC Advisory Position)

No update.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

IX. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next EMCC meeting is planned to be held virtually and is scheduled for June 25, 2020. Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:10 AM.