



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 Teams

Minutes

Thursday, September 24, 2020

Members Present

Abbott, Stephen – District 5
Adler, Fred – District 3
Blacksberg, David – HASDIC
Brainard, Criss – SD County Fire Chiefs' Association
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
Lyons, R.N., Laura American Red Cross
Marugg, James – SD County Fire Districts' Association
Mercer, Kevin – SD County Ambulance Association
Pearson, Danielle – County Paramedic Agencies Committee (Alt)
Rosenberg, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses' Association
Scott, M.D., Christopher – SD County Medical Society
Wells, R.N., Christine – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators

Not in Attendance

District 1
Law Enforcement Agencies
Military Agencies
SD County Paramedic Association

In Attendance

Beckert, Mark – Carlsbad FD
Francis, Allen – CDCR/CCHCS
Hutchinson, Heidi – UCSD
Idman-Gervais, Diane – Grossmont
McClain, Tim – HHSA
Meadows-Pitt, Mary – Grossmont
Meick, Tyler – REACH Air
Ridgway, Sacha – Alvarado Hospital
Rios, Matt – Federal Fire
Sloan, Christian – Mercy Air/UCSD
Sullivan, Don – AMR
Sumek, Caryn – HASDIC

County Staff

Beam, Jamie
Cavanaugh, Adria
Christison, Brian
Conover, Bill
del Toro, Nicole (recorder)
Gall, Jessica
Kenner-Brininger, Amelia
Koenig, M.D., Kristi
Pacheco, R.N., Cheryl
Parr, Andy
Pitner, Jaime
Rogers, Cody
Schoenheit, R.N., Candy
Tuteur, M.D., Jennifer

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

Chara Cote, EMCC Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Due to the meeting being held virtually, the group did not recite the Pledge of Allegiance. There were no introductions or announcements made. Attendance was captured online via the chat box.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ PETITIONS

There were no public comments or petitions submitted.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The July 23, 2020 minutes were approved by consensus.

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:

- Busy summer with fires, heat emergencies, and COVID.
- Experiencing episodic system strains with increases in bypass hours, TOC, ECMO – monitoring daily.
- Cases increasing around the globe and country; 32 million cases worldwide; coming up on 1 million deaths worldwide.
- Cases spiking in Europe.
- Seeing approximately 40k cases a day and 800 deaths daily.
- 22 states in the US reported increases in new cases compared to previous week; 7 states reported a decline.
- California generally has a flattening of the curve to improving, but we are opening up schools, colleges and moving into flu season; expecting more cases.
- Seeing a shift to younger ages getting the virus, but can spread the virus even without symptoms. Population is still vulnerable.
- Locally we continue to be guided by our 3-prong strategy:
 1. Flattening the curve via non-pharmaceutical interventions.
 - 3 Ws: Wash your hands, Wear a mask, Walk away.
 2. Increase healthcare system capacity
 - 3 Ss: Stuff, Staff, Structure.
 3. Managing everything through Incident Command System.

- Many EMS staff deployed at EOC or MOC full time in addition to doing their normal EMS duties.
- R-effective is just below 1.
- SDSU has a large outbreak with 910 cases.
- The state now has color coding for each county; San Diego was the first southern California county to be in the “red zone.”
- Mitigation vs containment. We never came completely off our initial wave so that “containment” could be fully implemented so we are still dependent on “mitigation” measures (the 3Ws).
- T3 measures – HHSA leader Nick Macchione is heading the T3 program; have now surpassed 1 million tests in San Diego county.
- Federal Government issuing instruments and care tests; at least one SNF had instrument but not nearly enough tests; a work in progress.
- Pilot project monitoring sewage. UCSD has some positives. Can detect the virus in asymptomatic people.
- Initiated voluntary testing at the border for people crossing into San Diego; 90k crossings per day.
- COVID-19 Vaccinations – unknown when ready; supply limited and priority groups for distribution. Many vaccines under development are two dose regimens.
- Looking at vaccine priority groups. Need more minorities in testing groups.
- Local Optional Scope of Practice authorization is granted for paramedics to assist with COVID vaccination once becomes available and authorization to assist with flu vaccination.
- Treatment – a lot of emerging therapies such as convalescent plasma, monoclonal antibodies, inflammatory inhibitors.
- Clinical course – COVID fatigue. Be on the lookout for mental health effects, increases in suicide, intimate partner abuse, drug and alcohol use.
- Need to put in measures to ensure all populations are properly protected and treated.
- Seeing an increase in asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic young adults.
- COVID is labeled as a pre-existing condition.
- CDC ongoing study for serology. The vast majority of Americans are susceptible to catching the virus
- Now entering flu season. Need to continue to maintain healthcare capacity.
- Stay focused on the science including human factors and human behaviors.
- Avoid 3 Cs: Crowded places, Closed environments, Close contact; Embrace the 3 Ws: Wash your hands, Wear your mask, Walk away.

Dr. Nick Yphantides emphasized on the importance that San Diego County was able to remain in the State’s red zone this week. There will be a focus effort in the coming weeks with the appropriateness of testing and the volume of testing as part of our regional strategy to stay in red or improve our region’s capacity to move into orange tier as well. There are also ongoing discussions between San Diego and several other large counties in the state of California of potentially integrating other parameters with regards to system data such as healthcare capacity, etc. as we continue to navigate the pandemic.

B. MOC Report.

No report.

C. Administrative Report – Andy Parr

1. Quarterly meetings for CSA-17 and CSA-69 and contract administration have resumed.

2. In the process of sending out a survey to 19 fire agencies for first responder claim fund.
3. Rincon Tribal Government has requested to become their own ALS transport agency, and to provide service to San Pasqual Reservation. Updated draft contracts have been sent to those agencies. EMS has not yet formalized these requests.
4. The County EMS Grantville office remains closed. Staff is working remotely, but are still receiving mail and incoming phone calls.
5. Continue to have a number of EMS staff at the EOC or MOC. COVID EOC has moved away from the County's Emergency Operations Center to a nearby office.
6. EMCC Bylaws change – process continues. Should go to the Board of Supervisors next Tuesday.
7. Radios – Any radio with an EC # engraved into the plastic needs to come back to EMS.
8. EMS Duty Officer & Dispatch contacts. The Duty Officer can also be contacted by your fire agency dispatch center. As a reminder, the new EMS Duty Officer phone number is: 619-588-0397.

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 Order updates
- CoSD EMS Frequently Asked/Answered Questions (FAQs) document updates
- CoSD EMS Memos
- Health Services Capacity Task Force (HSCTF)
 - All Hazard Health Services Capacity Management Plan (activated throughout this season)
 - Expanded Operational Group coordination calls

D. Transfer of Care (TOC) Report

The new [TOC Dashboard](#) link is on the County EMS webpage and consists of eight pages for navigation. The information is updated regularly and is reviewed at the state level.

VI. SYSTEM POLICY REVIEW (EMCC Advisory Position)

- A. P-801: Ad hoc Committee Status Report (Dr. Chris Kahn)
Have not met in several months. Would like to resume. Will work with Nicole del Toro on scheduling.
- B. S-010: Ad hoc Committee Status Report (Dr. Chris Scott)
Will look into the status and will get in touch with Brian Christison with the status and latest documents.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Alvarado Medical Center: request to become a Base Station Hospital.
Alvarado submitted a formal request to become a base station hospital. County EMS received an excellent report from them on their request. EMCC is the primary stakeholder that we would consult with to give the County advice. Adding additional Base Hospitals is well defined in Policy P-701 and will be followed in deliberations to bring it to a vote or a question. EMS is in active dialogue with Alvarado on their request, however it will take a number of months to go through the process and make a decision.

Discussion:

P-701 will remain on the agenda as Old Business and will report on it monthly until it gets resolved.

Sacha Ridgway from Alvarado Hospital requested to be a part of any future meetings or any study process.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

IX. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned in memory of Dr. Bruce Haynes, EMS Medical Director for San Diego County from 2006-2016.

The next EMCC meeting is planned to be held virtually and is scheduled for October 22, 2020. Meeting adjourned at 10:34 AM.