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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 Ave, Rm 172, San Diego 92123
Thursday, February 12, 2026

Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE

Members

Covell, RN, Brian – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators' Committee
Jordan, Jonathan – District 2
Rauto-Shin, Roxanne – County Paramedic Agencies Committee

County Staff

Assof, Michael
Christison, Brian
Trousdale, Brad
Vithalani, MD, Veer

Agency Representatives

Clyons, Jeff – SD Fire Rescue
Erickson, Kirk – Scripps Mercy
Graham, Valery – CSA 17
Kahn, MD, Christopher – SDFD/UCSD
Marugg, James – SD County Fire
Moe, Matt – San Diego Fire
Pearson, Nate – Carlsbad FD
Sullivan, Don – AMR

I. CALL TO ORDER/ INTRODUCTIONS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Brian Covell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:31 am.
B. There were no introductions.
C. There were no announcements.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Jonathan Jordan, seconded by Brian Covell to approve the meeting minutes from January 08, 2026. Motion carried.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ PETITIONS

There were no public comments or petitions.

IV. COUNTY REPORT – Michael Assof, EMS Coordinator

- Health Services Capacity Plan Level: Plan Level 4 – Enhanced Surveillance
Southern California Fire Preparedness Level: Plan Level 1
- State Regulations Update:
The Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) announced that the proposed revisions to Chapter 6 – Specialty Care Programs regulations were unanimously approved at the EMS Commission meeting in December. The next step in the approval process is for the submission of the draft regulation to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for final approval. The EMS Office anticipates reporting on the outcome of OAL’s review in the April/May timeframe.
- EMS Fees:
The fiscal arm of County Fire has announced that we are entering the third year of a planned three-year staggered fee schedule Increase to all County Fire Programs. Fees are being increased for (Fire Marshal) plan reviews, (Fire) inspections and EMS Office Fees. Fees will be presented to the EMCC on March 26th, 2026, where the members of the EMCC and the public can comment on the planned fee increases. The County Fire fee schedule will be considered by the Board of Supervisors on April 22, 2026, and then again on May 6, 2026.
- EMS Corps First Cohort graduated – Second cohort began on January 8, 2026:
San Diego County Fire's EMS Corps is a 5-month EMT training program for young adults between 18-26 who are justice- or child-welfare-impacted. The program provides a monthly stipend of \$1,500, along with personalized support during EMT training, including career and personal counseling, mentorship, and hands-on experience in the EMS field. Cohort 1 launched July 7, 2025, and had a graduating class of 16 students on December 2, 2025. Cohort 2 started on January 5, 2026. A North County cohort of 20 students will be held at Palomar College’s Escondido campus, and will begin in the Spring of 2026, and the application portal is open for this cohort. More information and program applications are available at the San Diego EMS Corps website (SanDiegoEMSCorps.Org). In addition, we thank our partner organizations listed below for supporting this important program:
 - Southwestern College
 - Palomar College
 - American Medical Response
 - Falck
 - Premier Ambulance
 - The Children’s Initiative
 - Public Works Alliance (PWA)
 - SBCS
 - San Diego Workforce Partnership
 - Chula Vista Fire Department
- EMS Treatment Protocol Updates:
This year’s proposed updates will focus on three main areas: the 2025 AHA Guidelines, obstetrical emergencies, and trauma—specifically the trauma decision algorithm. As part of these updates, magnesium sulfate will be added as a new medication for ALS providers to carry for the treatment of preeclampsia and eclampsia. These draft protocols were developed in consultation with the new EMS Protocol Workgroup and were presented at the EMS Medical Director’s Advisory Committee meeting on January 20 for review and feedback.
- Mid Cycle Policy Updates:
As part of our continued work on EMS delivery system improvements, San Diego County EMS is implementing revisions to the following policies, **effective February 1, 2026**:
 - [Policy S-070 Special Project Proposals](#),
 - [Policy S-306 Emergency Medical Services Continuing Education](#), and
 - [Policy S-620 LEMSA Data Use and Stand](#)

These revisions have completed the public comment period, undergone comprehensive stakeholder review, and are now finalized. These policies are publicly available on the homepage of County EMS website. We encourage all EMS partners and stakeholders to review the updated

- policies in preparation for their implementation.

 - Agency LEMSIS Rosters and Updates:
All EMS agencies have the ability to electronically update their employee lists in LEMSIS. County staff have noticed that some agencies have done a better job *adding* new staff and have been less accurate with removing staff that have left the agency. Other agencies have not updated their roster in some time. County staffers rely on these LEMSIS rosters for finding the correct agency point of contact, QA reviews, arrest notifications, and several other responsibilities. ALS agencies are required to update their rosters under their MOAs and permitted ambulance providers are required to update their rosters under County code.
 - SD Emergency App:
The County Office of Emergency Services emergency information app has a new name, a new look, and new features to help keep you safe.
 - County EMS Office Holiday Closure Advisories:
Presidents Day – February 16, 2026

A. Vaccination Local Optional Scope of Practice Status Report

Seven agencies are currently participating in the Vaccination Local Optional Scope of Practice. Open to EMTs and Paramedics to administer COVID or influenza vaccinations to either the public, internally, or to other municipal or city employees. There are over 60 vaccinations to date. Look forward to onboarding new agencies as they come. If interested, please send an email to EMSnotifications@sdcounty.ca.gov

B. Quality Management Process Updates – Veer Vithalani, MD

Updates to the EMS System Redesign are posted on the [San Diego County Engage Page](#).

The digital prehospital, prearrival notification platforms pilot programs are readying for launch. The ramp-up for these pilot project are well underway. Image Trend and Pulsara pilots are on track to go live around the first week of March. The TigerConnect pilot platform is in the works. .

The new Quality Management system is in effect, which is a county-wide implementation pilot to evaluate how our new processes are going. As a reminder, the focus of quality management is much more on quality improvement, as opposed to focusing on individual cases that did not go well. There is a process to evaluate those cases that need improvement, but the goal is to minimize that work and focus on the quality improvement. The County EMS office will host a database that will be available to system participants about the quality assurance cases. Until the database is developed, send any cases of concern to EMSnotifications@sdcounty.ca.gov. The Quality Care Consortium is a new group, and all active participation is welcome. A signed confidentiality agreement is required. The next meeting is on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, and will be held virtually.

V. SYSTEM POLICY REVIEW (VOTE)

- A. S-TBD: Online Medical Direction and EMS Communication Recordings and Maintenance – Brian Christison, Group Program Manager

This policy is intended to establish a statutorily required retention policy for County-maintained audio recordings.

ACTION: Several revisions to the policy were suggested. These comments will be reviewed by the EMS Office.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Spare Wheel Exemption Process and Strategy – Brian Christison, Group Program Manager

California Highway Patrol (CHP) regulations require privately owned ambulances to maintain a

number of specific items, including a spare wheel. State regulations also allow the Board of Supervisors for each county to request waivers from the CHP Commissioner for certain items on the list. The Board of Supervisors has requested authorization every three years for ambulances, including public ambulances, to not carry the regulation-required spare wheels.

Years ago, CHP informed the San Diego County EMS Office that requesting exemptions for publicly owned ambulances was no longer necessary, so those requests ceased.

However, the San Diego County EMS Office has continued to seek waivers on behalf of three private entities.

The group was asked for their input and recommendations on how our LEMSA should handle this time-consuming niche and the costly process needed to maintain this exemption. Group discussion ensued.

ACTION: This agenda item will be continued at the next meeting in April.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

VIII. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2026, at 9:30 am at 5560 Overland Avenue, Rm 172, San Diego 92123. Meeting adjourned at 10:25 am.