



JEFF COLLINS
DIRECTOR
San Diego County Fire
(619) 339-0283

PUBLIC SAFETY GROUP
SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE
SAN DIEGO COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OFFICE
5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 400, San Diego, CA 92123-1204
www.SanDiegoCountyEMS.com

ANDREW (ANDY) PARR
EMS ADMINISTRATOR
Deputy Director, Departmental Operations
(619) 285-6429

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, June 11, 2026

Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE

Members

Cochran, Jennifer – County Paramedic Agencies Committee (Alt)
Covell, RN, Brian – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators' Committee
Pearson, Nathan – SD Fire Chiefs' Association (Alt)
Rauto-Shin, Roxanne – County Paramedic Agencies Committee

County Staff

Assof, Michael
Brein, Suzee
Christison, Brian
del Toro, Nicole
Gonzalez, Evelin

Agency Representatives

Chandler, Craig – Stryker
Graham, Valery – CSA 17
Schwartz, MD, Brad – AMR/ RCCP
Scott, MD, Christopher – Kaiser

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 Nate Pearson, seconded by Roxanne Rauto-Shin to approve the meeting minutes from April 9, 2026. Motion carried.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/ PETITIONS

There were no public comments or petitions.

IV. COUNTY REPORT

- Health Services Capacity Plan Level: Plan Level 5 – Baseline Surveillance
Southern California Fire Preparedness Level: Plan Level 2

This month's report highlights several important EMS updates. The California EMS Authority is working through comments on its Specialty Care Program and Ambulance Patient Offload Time regulation packages. The new statewide Centralized Registry System launched April 1, with a goal to streamline credentialing and improve data accuracy. The National Pediatric Readiness Survey recently completed, and we're pleased to share there was 100% participation. County Fire's planned fee schedule adjustments move forward this spring, and the EMS System Redesign continues to advance with the ongoing prearrival notification pilot studies. Finally, major protocol updates, including adopting evidence-based OB care, updated AHA guidelines, and the addition of magnesium sulfate for ALS units, will take effect July 1.

- EMSA Regulation Updates:

The Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) recently completed another round of public comment on the proposed Chapter 6 Specialty Care package, which includes updated language for trauma, stroke, and STEMI programs. Additional information is anticipated to be provided at the June 17 California Commission on EMS meeting.

The request to add ondansetron to the California EMT basic scope of practice completed a 45-day public comment period in late May. In addition, updates to the Ambulance Patient Offload Time regulations were posted for another round of comments, which concluded June 3. This package includes additions and edits incorporated from the public comment process that concluded in April

Both APOT and EMT ondansetron regulations will be discussed at the June EMS Commission meeting.

- New EMSA Centralized Registry System went live on April 1.

This new system aims to simplify processes, increase transparency, improve data accuracy, and deliver a more efficient user experience for certifying entities, training programs, and EMS professionals statewide. The updated Centralized Registry System will act as a single platform for managing credentials, tracking records, generating reports, and ensuring compliance, promoting greater consistency and accountability throughout the EMS system. Like many IT platform cutovers, some paramedics have encountered data migration issues or experience processing delays. Personnel should contact the EMSA Paramedic Licensure Unit via email at paramedic@emsa.ca.gov. More details can be found on the EMSA website.

- San Diego EMS Credentialing – Managing Expectations (Effective April 1, 2026)

Like many state and local agencies, the County of San Diego is experiencing a significant reduction in General Purpose Revenue (GPR), which primarily funds the EMS Office. In response, the EMS Office is implementing several cost-saving measures, including the elimination of programmatic overtime for EMS Office staff.

As a result, credential applications submitted fewer than 10 County workdays before the end of the month may not be processed before the credential expires. When an expiration occurs, both the EMS professional and their rostered employer will be notified through the LEMSIS system.

- EMS Fees will increase July 1, 2026:

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 were 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 was approved by the Board of Supervisors May 20, 2026.

- EMS Treatment Protocol Updates:

The 2026-2027 EMS Treatment Protocols are now available on the EMS website. Updated protocols, education materials, and the full changelog were distributed to all EMS agencies,

training programs, and base hospitals on May 1 via LEMSIS.

As part of this update, magnesium sulfate has been added as an ALS medication for the treatment of preeclampsia and eclampsia, following review by the EMS Protocol Workgroup and the EMS Medical Director's Advisory Committee. Effective July 1, 2026:

- ALS first responder units and ALS transport units must carry one unit of magnesium sulfate (5 gm/10 mL)
- BLS transport units must have an oxygen saturation monitoring device with both adult and pediatric probes.
- EMS Mobile App:
The EMS Mobile App will be updated on July 1. Meant to work both online and offline.
- National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO)
NASEMSO is developing the fourth edition of the National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines. These guidelines, first released in 2014 and most recently updated in 2022, support consistent, evidence-based clinical practice across state EMS offices and local EMS agencies. NASEMSO is currently requesting input from the EMS community to help refine existing guidelines and identify opportunities for new content. The survey is open until June 30.

Because we regularly reference the National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines when shaping our county's treatment protocols, this is an excellent opportunity for interested stakeholders to contribute to the continued standardization and improvement of EMS clinical care.

If you would like to participate or submit recommendations, you may do so using the following link: [National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines – Stakeholder Feedback Survey](#)

- No Notice Ambulance Arrival Data Collection:
San Diego County EMS collects data on ambulance arrivals at emergency departments, focusing on no-notice and late notifications that can indicate short transports or operational issues. This data will guide the EMS System Redesign. Data collection occurs through two channels: one from emergency departments and another from field providers. ED staff can complete a 30-second survey by phone or browser or download a QR code flyer. If EMS providers encounter Communication Failure, they should still use the P-405A Report, available via Elite EPCR or mobile app. Over 1,300 reports have been received so far.
- EMS Flow:
The state is transitioning from CEMSIS database to a new vendor called EMS Flow. The transition is designed to centralize and standardize EMS data and better link other data sources to EMS ePCR data. It will require our LEMSAs and all other LEMSAs to change how data is submitted to the state. The transition will begin on June 23 with an end date of July 17. A webinar is posted on EMSA's YouTube channel.
- EMS System Redesign Process Policy Modification Listing:
The EMS System Redesign is underway. On January 6, the new Quality Management process commenced, shifting from a fragmented legacy system to a centralized, countywide monitoring process managed by the EMS Office, with EMS agencies responsible for case dispositions.

Earlier this month, EMS launched two of three Prehospital Notification Pilot platforms. Users in the pilot areas are providing feedback on the information, advice, strengths, and weaknesses of the tested products. The Core Group and Steering Committee are monitoring these pilots closely. The final Pilot Study is planned to start around May 1, pending final agreements from all participants.

The Trauma Center Catchment (TCC) Task Force has been gathering information and working with FirstWatch to create a tool that assists a communication center to assist paramedics in identifying the most accessible Trauma Center under a study project. Although more work is needed, considerable progress has been made. Reminder: the consultant's final reports to the Board, group charters, and periodic updates are accessible on San Diego County Engage Page.

A. Quality Management Process – Michael Assof, EMS Coordinator

- The new quality management process continues as a high-level overview. Currently averaging 16-17 incoming cases per month. The majority of those cases continue to be from either a Base Hospital or a self-report from an EMS agency. The vast majority of the cases are closed out predominantly as low with an opportunity for improvement. Continue to look for trends. Incorporated a few adjustments to the protocols this cycle to go into effect on July 1. Continue to use the reporting process. Please send emails to www.EMSnotifications.com and include the date, time, incident #, agency, and 1-2 sentences of concerns.
- A few more steps were added in the process, and to include those reporting parties in the feedback process.
- Work continues on the procurement front for establishing the assessable database to all system participants.
- Have eight quality metrics; seven bundles of care. Mostly complete. Agencies will have the ability to view their own data, and can benchmark it against the system data.

V. SYSTEM POLICY UPDATES

- A. B-451: Advanced EMT Scope of Practice Update for Perilaryngeal Airway Adjuncts – Michael Assof, EMS Coordinator

Policy B-451 was shared with the group. Changes were discussed. Members agreed that this revision is non-substantive and serves only to align the policy with treatment protocols taking effect in July; therefore, no public comment period or further committee action is required.

- B. S-060: Online Medical Recordings and Maintenance – Brian Christison, Group Program Manager

Policy S-060 will be brought for another round of public comment after clarifications are made to match the RCS retention of records schedule to the San Diego County Record Retention Schedule to the regulations at the state level for LEMSA record retention levels.

- C. S-308: EMS Training Programs – Brian Christison, Group Program Manager

Policy S-308 is in the final stages of staff work. Currently have four training program policies: Public Safety First Aid, EMT, AEMT and Paramedic. The goal is to bring some of these policies together. Will bring to public comment.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

VII. OLD 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.

There was group discussion.

ACTION: A request was made to the group for early feedback on the exemption process.

VIII. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2026, at 9:30 am location TBD. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.