

**Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC) - 2008 Meeting Minutes**

[EMCC Minutes Thursday, January 24, 2008](#)

[EMCC Minutes Thursday, February – no meeting](#)

[EMCC Minutes Thursday, March – no meeting](#)

[EMCC Minutes Thursday, April 24, 2008](#)

[EMCC Minutes Thursday, May – no meeting](#)

[EMCC Minutes Thursday, June – no meeting](#)

[EMCC Minutes Thursday, July – no meeting](#)

[EMCC Minutes Thursday, September 25, 2008](#)

[EMCC Minutes Thursday, October – no meeting](#)

[EMCC Minutes Thursday, November 20, 2008](#)



# County of San Diego

JEAN M. SHEPARD  
DIRECTOR

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

### PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D., M.P.H. 1700 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2417  
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER (619) 531-5800 FAX (619) 515-6707

Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC)  
Bob Pfohl, Chair/Dan Graham, Vice-Chair  
c/o Emergency Medical Services  
6255 Mission Gorge Road  
San Diego, CA 92120  
(619) 285-6429 FAX (619) 285-6531

Community Epidemiology  
Emergency & Disaster Medical Services  
HIV, STD and Hepatitis  
Immunization  
Maternal, Child and Family Health Services  
Public Health Laboratory  
PH Nursing/Border Health  
TB Control & Refugee Health  
Vital Records

#### 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 MEETING

### Minutes

Thursday, January 24, 2008

#### Members Present

Broyles, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses' Association  
Cerny, Barbara – Third District  
Dipretoro, Scott – American Red Cross  
Dotson, R.N., Melody – Base Hosp. Nurse Coordinators  
Forman, R.N., Kelly – Co. Paramedics Agencies Comm.  
Graham, Dan – S.D. Co. Ambulance Association  
Green, R.N., Katy – First District  
Marugg, Jim – S.D. Co. Paramedics' Association  
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – Second District  
Miranda, Sgt. Pete – Law Enforcement Agencies  
Pfohl, Chief Bob – S.D. Co. Fire Chiefs' Association  
Schroeder, Dave – Fourth District  
Skoglund, R.N., Patty – Hosp. Assoc. S.D./Imperial Co.

#### Vacant

Binational EMCC  
Emergency Physicians' Society  
League of California Cities  
Military Agencies  
S.D. Co. Medical Society

#### Members Absent

Fried, Bruce – Fifth District

#### Guests Present

Bull, R.N., Pat – American Red Cross  
Graydon, R.N., Cheryl – Palomar  
Johnson, Wayne – S.D. Med. Services Enterprise  
Kusman, Travis – American Medical Response  
Majerczak, R.N., Karen – Tri-City  
Outlaw, Liz – Sharp Healthcare

#### County Staff Present

Haynes, M.D., Bruce  
Metz, R.N., Marcy

#### Recorder

Rupp, Merle

## I. INTRODUCTION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Graham, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

## II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MOTION made by Linda Broyles, R.N., Seconded by Jim Marugg, to approve the Minutes of November 15, 2007 as submitted. MOTION carried.**

### III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

None.

### IV. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Prehospital/Hospital

**MOTION made by Mary Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Seconded by Jim Marugg to approve policies T-703 and T-705 as submitted. MOTION carried.**

### V. PARAMEDIC INTERFACILITY TRANSPORTS

Kelly Forman, R.N., reported that he subject was discussed at the last EMCC Prehospital/Hospital subcommittee meeting and consensus was reached that there wasn't any need they could find to make any change to the current standards.

The subject was also discussed at the San Diego County Ambulance Association meeting the day before. Mixed feelings were expressed, primarily regarding how much investigation and data would be needed to be gathered to determine the need.

### VI. EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)

Influenza cases continue to remain low. Some occasional spikes have been noticed regarding respiratory disease and respiratory disease with fever types. Emergency departments have been very busy in San Diego County and hospitals have been having some difficulty admitting patients, especially to the intensive care and telemetry units. Within the last week there were eleven or twelve hospitals on bypass saturation simultaneously. A telephone conference with the Hospital Association of San Diego and Imperial Counties was held.

The ROC (Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium) Study is on-going with the emphasis on the Cardiac Arrest part now.

The door-to-balloon times in the STEMI system have been very good and the system is working well on the activated patients. Some up-coming review will focus on over-triaged patients and non-activated cases.

The Stroke protocol went into effect on January 1, 2008. A tool is being developed on how to survey receiving hospitals for stroke to make sure they're in compliance with the policy.

After-action reports are being worked on from the October, 2007 wildfires. Discussions will be held on lessons learned and where improvements can be made for the future.

The State has an earthquake drill planned for the annual November State-wide exercise.

Agitated delirium cases are being reviewed with the possible use of sedatives to restrain those patients if necessary and prevent cardiac arrest.

Cesar Aristeiguieta, M.D., recently resigned as State EMS Director.

**VII. EMS STAFF REPORT (Marcy Metz, R.N.)**

Dean Sidelinger, M.D., has been appointed as the new Deputy Health Officer in Public Health. Dr. Sidelinger was at UCSD in the Division of Community Pediatrics. In County HHSA, Dr. Sidelinger will focus on tuberculosis, border health issues and community outreach activities, among other things.

Pauline Thomas, R.N., has been hired at EMS as a Quality Assurance Specialist and will begin employment the beginning of February, 2008. Ms. Thomas will work on the disaster side of EMS. Ms. Thomas formerly worked at Paradise Valley in a manager role.

The Metropolitan Medical Strike Team (MMST) is holding a drill this date (January 24, 2008) in the Chula Vista area.

A number of events will be taking place in June, 2008 in San Diego County; the U.S. Open Golf tournament, the Del Mar Fair, and the Rock and Roll Marathon. EMS staff is working with San Diego City staff on emergency plans for those events.

**VIII. ELECTIONS OF CHAIR FOR 2008**

**MOTION made by Kelly Forman, R.N., Seconded by Linda Broyles, R.N., to appoint Bob Pfohl as Chair for 2008. MOTION carried.**

**IX. SET NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 28, 2008 at 9:00 a.m., Health Services Complex, Disaster Operations Center, 3851 Rosecrans Street, San Diego.

Respectfully Submitted,

Merle Rupp, Board Secretary,  
County EMS



# County of San Diego

JEAN M. SHEPARD  
DIRECTOR

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

### PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D., M.P.H. 1700 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2417  
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER (619) 531-5800 FAX (619) 515-6707

Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC)  
Bob Pfohl, Chair/Dan Graham, Vice-Chair  
c/o Emergency Medical Services  
6255 Mission Gorge Road  
San Diego, CA 92120  
(619) 285-6429 FAX (619) 285-6531

Community Epidemiology  
Emergency & Disaster Medical Services  
HIV, STD and Hepatitis  
Immunization  
Maternal, Child and Family Health Services  
Public Health Laboratory  
PH Nursing/Border Health  
TB Control & Refugee Health  
Vital Records

#### 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 MEETING

### Minutes

Thursday, April 24, 2008

#### Members Present

Broyles, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses' Association  
Dotson, R.N., Melody – Base Hosp. Nurse Coordinators  
Forman, R.N., Kelly – Co. Paramedics Agencies Comm.  
Fried, Bruce – Fifth District  
Graham, Dan – S.D. Co. Ambulance Association  
Green, R.N., Katy – First District  
Marugg, Jim – S.D. Co. Paramedics' Association  
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – Second District  
Pfohl, Bob – S.D. Co. Fire Districts' Association

#### Vacant

Binational EMCC  
Emergency Physicians' Society  
League of California Cities  
Military Agencies  
S.D. Co. Medical Society  
S.D. Co. Fire Districts' Association

#### Recorder

Rupp, Merle

#### Members Absent

Cerny, Barbara – Third District  
Dipretoro, Scott – American Red Cross  
Musgrove, Lt. Ed – Law Enforcement Agencies  
Schroeder, David – Fourth District  
Skoglund, R.N., Patty – Hosp. Assoc. S.D./Imperial Counties

#### Guests Present

Johnson, Wayne – S.D. Medical Services Enterprise  
Majerczak, R.N., Karen – Tri-City  
Leister, Stayce – Pacific Ambulance  
Steen, R.N., Pam – Mercy Air  
Yates, Judith – Hosp. Assoc. S.D./Imperial Counties

#### County Staff Present

Pate, R.N., Rebecca  
Ray, Leslie

## I. INTRODUCTION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bob Pfohl, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

## II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MOTION made by Jim Marugg, Seconded by Linda Broyles, R.N., to approve the Minutes of January 24, 2008 as submitted. MOTION carried. One abstention, Bruce Fried, Fifth District, not in attendance at last meeting.**

### III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

None.

### IV. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Prehospital/Hospital

**MOTION made by Wayne Johnson, Seconded by Katy Green, R.N., to approve policies T-706, T-710, T-711, T-712, T-713, S-022 and T-460 with attached algorithm as submitted. MOTION carried.**

Discussion ensued regarding the trauma resource issue. Jim Marugg, Chair, EMCC Prehospital Hospital stated that he discussed it briefly with Bruce Haynes, M.D., County EMS Medical Director, and it was decided it needed to go back to the Medical Audit Committee (MAC) for further review, to possibly be formalized into a protocol. Trauma policies are governed by the Trauma Green Book so a later discussion involving many stakeholders will likely occur.

EMCC Prehospital/Hospital also discussed the continuing problem of offload delays at hospital emergency rooms. The subcommittee decided they would like to bring it to the attention of regulatory agencies and work collaboratively with hospitals to overcome this local, national and global issue. It was noted that at one time last month, there was only one ambulance available for about 20 minutes in the City of San Diego. Transfer of the patient in the emergency room from prehospital provider to hospital continues to be a problem as to when the patient becomes hospital responsibility and is released from the transporting agency. There is also great concern that the past few years have not been bad flu seasons which always contributes to increasing numbers of patients in emergency rooms.

Judith Yates, Hospital Association of San Diego and Imperial Counties, added that this is definitely a state-wide issue and legislators are listening and it is hoped that will get the attention of fire marshals. The California Hospital Association is working on Assembly Bill 2207 (Lieu) which would require every hospital to assess the condition of its emergency department every three hours and calculate an overcrowding score. There are also EMTALA regulations and nursing ratios that figure into the equation. Another issue is that homeless and intoxicated people sometimes consume emergency department resources anywhere from six to eight hours and the hospitals have no where to send them.

Mr. Marugg suggested writing a letter on behalf of American Medical Response, San Diego Medical Services Enterprise and other stakeholders to Dr. Haynes and County EMS regarding this issue, which would then be forwarded to the County Board of Supervisors. Then the concerns could be relayed to the State level. Chair Bob Pfohl offered to assist in writing the letter with assistance from the San Diego County Fire Chiefs' Association. It was also suggested that collaborating with other EMCC agencies throughout the State might be beneficial.

**MOTION by Jim Marugg, Seconded by Kelly Forman, R.N., to compose the letter with stakeholder input, circulate it to EMCC members, and discuss at the next EMCC meeting.**

**MOTION carried.**

**V. DISASTER DRILL UPDATES**

A disaster drill schedule was distributed courtesy of law enforcement representatives for general information.

**VI. EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)**

(Rebecca Pate, R.N.): The Advanced EMT Program is currently being developed and current policies are being examined to determine which policies will need to be changed. There will be extra training required for a handful of extra skills. These skills will be helpful for BLS responders in rural areas in particular.

In regard to protocol issues, CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure) is being added as a standing order to the respiratory protocol as an optional skill for all ALS agencies. CPAC (County Paramedics Agencies' Committee) is currently working to establish a consensus on which of three device choices will be utilized.

In regard to the Agitated Delirium protocol, paramedics will be able to give Versed as a standing order to out-of-control patients that are agitated for a number of different reasons.

Dr. Haynes is currently working on a tool to evaluate hospitals that are not stroke certified by the Joint Commission to make sure they will meet the criteria to deliver stroke care.

**VII. EMS STAFF REPORT (Marcy Metz, R.N.)**

(Leslie Ray, County EMS): Several Point of Dispensing (POD) exercises were held the past week in the central and south regions of San Diego County with extensive media coverage and they went well. Another exercise will be held in the North County Central Region next week. These drills provide great practice for public health nurses to dispense medication in disaster situations.

The one year mark was recently passed on the STEMI system. Door-to-balloon times were reduced from 122 minutes down to 60 minutes.

Barbara Byous, Administrative Secretary, retired recently after 20 years of County service and Karen Crie was hired in her position to work for Marcy Metz, R.N., EMS Director and Dr. Haynes.

The EMS Coordinator position description is being written in collaboration with Human Resources. Recruitment continues for a Quality Assurance Specialist.

Jeri Bonesteele, R.N., retired last month from County EMS after 13 plus years of County service.

The State will be holding a trauma summit in Sacramento in July and the group will be looking at developing a state-wide trauma plan. Please contact Ms. Metz for more information.

**VIII. SET NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 22, 2008 at 9:00 a.m., Health Services Complex, Disaster Operations Center, 3851 Rosecrans Street, San Diego.

Respectfully Submitted,

Merle Rupp, Board Secretary,  
County EMS





NICK MACCHIONE, FACHE  
DIRECTOR

WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D., M.P.H.  
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

# County of San Diego

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

1700 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2417  
(619) 531-5800 FAX (619) 515-6707

Emergency Medical Care Committee  
Bob Pfohl, Chair/Dan Graham, Vice-Chair  
c/o Emergency Medical Services  
6255 Mission Gorge Road  
San Diego, CA 92120  
(619) 285-6429 Fax: (619) 285-6531

Community Epidemiology  
Emergency & Disaster Medical Services  
HIV, STD and Hepatitis  
Immunization  
Maternal, Child and Family Health Services  
Public Health Laboratory  
PH Nursing/Border Health  
TB Control & Refugee Health  
Vital Records

## MISSION STATEMENT

*“As advisor 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

### Minutes

Thursday, September 25, 2008

#### Members Present

Bull, R.N., Pat – American Red Cross  
Fisher, Chief Gary – S.D. Co. Fire Districts’ Assoc.  
Forman, R.N., Kelly – Co. Paramedics’ Agencies Comm.  
Graham, Dan – S.D. Co. Ambulance Association  
Green, R.N., Katy – First District  
Marugg, Jim – S.D. Co. Paramedics’ Association  
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – Second District  
Schroeder, David – Fourth District  
Scott, Chief Mike – S.D. Co. Fire Chiefs’ Association

#### County Staff Present

Haynes, M.D., Bruce  
Metz, R.N., Marcy  
Pate, R.N., Rebecca

#### Recorder

Rupp, Merle

#### Members Absent

Broyles, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses Assoc.  
Cerny, Barbara – Third District  
Dotson, R.N., Melody – Base Hosp. Nurse Coord.  
Fried, Bruce – Fifth District  
Musgrove, Lt. Ed – Law Enforcement Agencies  
Skoglund, R.N., Patty – Hosp. Assoc. S.D./Imp. Co.

#### Guests Present

Johnson, Wayne – S.D. Medical Services Enterprise  
Kusman, Travis – American Medical Response  
Nugyen, Tue – American Heart Association  
Steen, R.N., Pam – Mercy Air  
Yates, Judith – Hosp. Assoc. S.D./Imperial Counties

#### Vacant

Binational EMCC  
Emergency Physicians’ Society  
League of California Cities  
Military Agencies  
San Diego County Medical Society

**I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dan Graham, Vice-Chair, brought the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION made by Kelly Forman, R.N., Seconded by Jim Marugg, to approve the Minutes of April 24, 2008 as submitted. MOTION carried.**

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS**

None.

**IV. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Prehospital/Hospital**

Discussion ensued on revisions to policy S-440. Concern was raised over expiration dates of particular caches of autoinjector supplies. One advantage of the Chempack program is that a cache of antidotes can be stored at various specified locations in a controlled environment so it has a longer shelf life. Unfortunately, Chempack supplies are not to be distributed unless an actual event occurs.

**ACTION: Bruce Haynes, M.D. , EMS Medical Director will check into the timeliness of having Chempacks delivered and report back at the next EMCC meeting.**

**ACTION: The Fire Chiefs will look into whether or not there could be funding for this from USAI (Urban Area Security Initiative) and whether or not Chempacks could be placed in the hands of first responders.**

**MOTION made by Kelly Forman, R.N., Seconded by Chief Mike Scott, to approve policy S-440 as submitted. MOTION carried.**

**V. EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)**

Hospital Capacity Plan: Years ago a Hospital Capacity Plan was developed by the County to deal with the winter influenza season. This year the group has already met twice. This year there will be a number of changes this year to make it more operational at the lower levels and will incorporate some of the recent information on hospital emergency room overcrowding and offload delays into the Plan.

First Watch: A task force has been looking at ways to use First Watch which is connected to dispatch agencies and reports how long units are tied up waiting to get back into service. First Watch allows triggers to occur so people can be notified directly to their cell phone for example. Concern arose as to where the data is going, what the triggers are and who's going to review the data. Dr. Haynes stated that there's going to be a two-month trial to examine the data.

POLST (Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment) Form: Copies were distributed of this form regarding whether or not to attempt resuscitation. The form is a Physician's Order sheet based on the person's medical condition and wishes and is broken down into five sections: A: Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation; B: Medical Interventions; C: Antibiotics; D: Artificially Administered Nutrition; and E: Summary of Medical Condition and Signatures. The form has been signed into State law and will take effect January 1, 2009.

Stroke Update: Hospital reviews for stroke will begin this autumn and continue through the winter in an attempt to have hospitals certified to receive acute stroke patients. Some hospitals are Joint Commission certified and others may apply in the future. The County will review those hospitals who want to participate in the Stroke program but will not be applying to the Joint Commission for certification.

Fact Sheet – Management of Home-Generated Sharps for Healthcare Providers: This form was distributed which promulgates the County of San Diego, Department of Environmental Health's Hazardous Materials Division as the designated local enforcement agency that implements the Medical Waste Management Act throughout the entire County. The disposal of home-generated sharps is no longer allowed in regular trash. Home-generated sharps are defined as disposable hypodermic needles, needles with attached tubing, syringers, blades, lancets, acupuncture needles and other medical devices that are used to penetrate the skin for self-injection, to deliver medication, or to conduct a blood test. It was suggested that public notices go out regarding this.

Advanced EMT Program: The State EMS Commission approved the most recent version of the Advanced EMT Program.

## VI. EMS STAFF REPORT (Marcy Metz, R.N., Chief)

Sunset Review Report: Every four years the County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors office sends out a Sunset Review form to each committee in the County that is an advisory board to the County Board of Supervisors, requesting their status on whether that advisory board feels the need to continue to meet or dissolve. **ACTION: Chief Mike Scott made a Motion to approve continuing the EMCC and Jim Marugg Seconded it. MOTION carried.**

State Trauma Plan: The State is currently embarking on a State Trauma Plan. A summit was held in Sacramento on July 24, 2008 which was well attended by physicians and trauma program personnel from all over the State. They decided to divide into regions for regional trauma planning. San Diego is in the Southeast Region which also includes Imperial and San Bernardino Counties. The goal is to develop regional trauma coordinating committees.

Overcrowding Summit: The Overcrowding Summit will be held on October 8, 2008 at Sharp Spectrum in San Diego from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Featured speakers will include Steve Tharratt, M.D., the new California EMS Medical Director, Dr. Haynes, Wilma Wooten, M.D., Public Health Director, Roneet Lev, M.D., Chair, Emergency Medical Oversight Committee and Michael Williams, President, Abaris Group.

Grants Update: EMS staff are working on several grants at this time. On the disaster side, grant applications for the CDC and pandemic flu are due by October 8, 2008.

State-wide Exercise: Plans are continuing for the annual State-wide Golden Guardian exercise which will be held November 13-14 and 17-18, 2008 with an earthquake scenario. The State will be deploying a mobile field hospital to March Air Force Base near Riverside. Scripps Health has the contract with the State for the administration of that hospital and if anyone is interested in having a tour, please contact County EMS staff for arrangements.

Award Received: County EMS Medical Operations Center received a Silver Award from the Southern California Chapter of Emergency Services for its response to the fires of October, 2007 and assisting with evacuating nursing homes and hospitals.

## **VII. SET NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 23, 2008 at 9:00 a.m., at the County's Health Services Complex, Disaster Operations Center, 3851 Rosecrans Street, San Diego.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Merle Rupp, Board Secretary  
County EMS



NICK MACCHIONE, FACHE  
DIRECTOR

WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D., M.P.H.  
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

# County of San Diego

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

1700 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2417  
(619) 531-5800 FAX (619) 515-6707

Community Epidemiology  
Emergency & Disaster Medical Services  
HIV, STD and Hepatitis  
Immunization  
Maternal, Child and Family Health Services  
Public Health Laboratory  
PH Nursing/Border Health  
TB Control & Refugee Health  
Vital Records

Emergency Medical Care Committee  
Bob Pfohl, Chair/Dan Graham, Vice-Chair  
c/o Emergency Medical Services  
6255 Mission Gorge Road  
San Diego, CA 92120  
(619) 285-6429 Fax: (619) 285-6531

## MISSION STATEMENT

*“As advisor 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

### Minutes

Thursday, November 20, 2008

#### Members Present

Broyles, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses’ Association  
Bull, R.N., Pat – American Red Cross  
Dotson, R.N., Melody – Base Hosp. Nurse Coordinators  
Fisher, Chief Gary – S.D. Co. Fire Districts’ Association  
Forman, R.N., Kelly – Co. Paramedics Agencies’ Comm.  
Fried, Bruce – Fifth District  
Graham, Dan – S.D. Co. Ambulance Association  
Green, R.N., Katy – First District  
Marugg, Jim – S.D. Co. Paramedics’ Association  
Outlaw, Liz – Hospital Assoc. S.D./Imperial Counties  
Pfohl, Bob – S.D. Co. Fire Chiefs’ Association

#### Vacant

Binational EMCC  
Emergency Physicians Society  
League of California Cities  
Military Agencies  
S.D. Co. Medical Society

#### Members Absent

Cerny, Barbara – Third District  
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – Second District  
Musgrove, Lt. Ed – Law Enforcement Agencies  
Schroeder, Dave – Fourth District

#### Guests Present

Johnson, Wayne – S.D. Medical Serv. Enterprise  
Overcast, Mike – Safari Club  
Yates, Judith – Hosp. Assoc. S.D./Imperial Counties

#### County Staff Present

Haynes, M.D., Bruce  
Metz, R.N., Marcy  
Pate, R.N., Rebecca

#### Recorder

Rupp, Merle

## I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bob Pfohl, Chair, brought the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

## II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MOTION made by Kelly Forman, R.N., Seconded by Jim Marugg, to approve the Minutes of September 25, 2008 as submitted. MOTION carried. (Two abstentions: Bob Pfohl and Bruce Fried—not in attendance at that meeting.)**

## III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

None.

## IV. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Prehospital/Hospital

Policy P-301 and Attachment A were discussed and minor revisions were recommended from the subcommittee. **MOTION made by Kelly Forman, R.N., Seconded by Linda Broyles, R.N., to approve Policy P-301 along with Attachment A. MOTION carried.**

## V. EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)

Hospital Bypass Update: In October the number of transports was up 1%. The number of patients who requested a specific hospital and the total hours emergency rooms were on bypass were considerably down.

Hospital Capacity Plan: This Plan is updated every year. New language was inserted in regard to offload delays in an attempt to reduce the number of offload delays as much as possible. Many times patients are waiting in the emergency room for a bed to open up in other areas of the hospital. Some modifications were made in reorganizing certain areas of the plan to make it more clear what the hospital suggestions are for Levels One through Four of the Plan. The First Watch trial is continuing to monitor offload delays. This year EMS will monitor the system more closely, conduct more visits and talk to emergency room staff more frequently.

No Bypass Trial: EMOC (Emergency Medical Oversight Committee) is still interested in conducting a “no bypass trial” possible in March or April, 2009. In large hospital systems such as Scripps and Sharp, it is beneficial if the patient can at least be taken to one of their hospitals, even if it isn't their primary facility, as things such as access to medical records is less complicated.

Protocols Update: A committee met recently and reviewed the protocols for paramedics and EMT's for 2009. Those suggested changes are being reviewed at this time and will be presented to the Base Station Physicians' Committee in January, 2009.

ROC (Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium) Study: The ROC Hypertonic Saline Study was suspended in January, 2008 by the ROC investigators because their Data Safety Monitoring Board wanted them to provide additional data and review some of the results up to that point. There are two criteria for admission into this trial: blunt trauma/head injury and/or altered mental status.

Golden Guardian Drill: This drill was conducted over a four-day period: November 13-14 and 17-18, 2008 with the scenario being a 7.8 earthquake on the San Andreas Fault in Southern California. The drill went well in terms of operations at the MOC (Medical Operations Center). Staff from skilled nursing facilities have also been more involved and Pauline Thomas, R.N., County EMS, has been instrumental in working with this group and obtaining bed counts from them in a timely manner, so patients can be transferred promptly if necessary. Power was turned off, including access to Web EOC and all telephones to simulate wide-spread power outages. Radio amateurs (ARES) staff did a great job with communication on their radio system. Logistics staff were brought in to assist and the volunteer system was expanded. An alternate care site was set up at Cal State San Marcos. Tents were set up and supplies brought in and it was staffed by the Medical Reserve Corps. Additionally, a field hospital was set up at March Air Force Base by the State and staffed with Cal Mat personnel.

## **VI. EMS STAFF REPORT (Marcy Metz, R.N., Chief)**

EMS Employee Updates: Rebecca Pate, R.N., was recently appointed to the position of EMS Coordinator. Brenda Roth, Analyst, who has worked on contracts for EMS for the last three years, is retiring December 4, 2008; she has worked for the County for 34 years. Jamie Beam will be replacing her.

EMS recently filled two Quality Assurance Specialist positions. Susan Smith, R.N., will be working on the EMS prehospital side and quality improvement and LeAnne Lovett-Floom, R.N., will work on disaster projects, including HPP (Hospital Preparedness Program).

Regional Trauma Plan: This Plan continues to evolve. San Diego is located in Region Six for disaster planning and three subcommittees were recently formed; one for trauma triage, one for quality improvement and one for repatriation and finance. The first regional meeting is January 9, 2009 in Temecula, California.

HazMat Incident at Kaiser Permanente Facility: Recently there was an incident where an employee opening an envelope in a Kaiser Permanente mailroom was exposed to an unknown powder, thinking it might have been anthrax. She was sent to Kaiser's emergency department, along with five other employees, which in a real scenario, could have exposed many others. Kaiser's emergency department closed for a while as this incident was investigated. Nick Vent, County Environmental Health HazMat, and Dave Williams, San Diego Fire, attended the last San Diego Healthcare Disaster Council meeting and discussed this incident and distributed related information.

**VII. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR FOR 2009**

**MOTION made by Katy Green, R.N., Seconded by Kelly Forman, R.N., to re-appoint Bob Pfohl to Chair of EMCC for 2009. MOTION carried.**

**MOTION made by Linda Broyles, R.N., Seconded by Kelly Forman, R.N., to appoint Jim Marugg as Vice-Chair of EMCC for 2009. MOTION carried.**

**VIII. SET NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 22, 2009 at 9:00 a.m., at the County's Health Services Complex, Disaster Operations Center, 3851 Rosecrans Street, San Diego.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Merle Rupp, Board Secretary  
County EMS