



County of San Diego

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

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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/Jim Marugg, 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, January 22, 2009

Members Present

Broyles, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses’ Association
Bull, R.N., Pat – American Red Cross
Forman, R.N., Kelly – Co. Paramedics Agencies’ Comm.
Green, R.N., Katy – First District
Majerczak, R.N., Karen – Base Hosp. Nurse Coordinators
Marugg, Jim – S.D. Co. Paramedics’ Association
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – Second District
Skoglund, R.N., Patty – Hosp. Assoc. S.D./Imperial Co.

County Staff Present

Haynes, M.D., Bruce
Metz, R.N., Marcy
Pate, R.N., Rebecca
Ray, Leslie
Smith, R.N., Susan

Vacant

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

Members Absent

Cerny, Barbara – Third District
Fisher, Chief Gary – S.D. Co. Fire Districts’ Assoc.
Fried, Bruce – Fifth District
Graham, Dan – S.D. Co. Ambulance Association
Musgrove, Lt. Ed – Law Enforcement Agencies
Pfohl, Bob – S.D. Co. Fire Chiefs’ Association
Schroeder, Dave – Fourth District

Guests Present

Collins, R.N., Marissa – Tri-City
Macchione, Director, Nick – Co. HHSA
Mazzola, Thomas – Loma Linda University
Matthews, Chuck – HHSA Co. Public Health
Outlaw, Liz – Sharp Healthcare
Thornton, Tim – Loma Linda University

Recorder

Rupp, Merle

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jim Marugg, 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 Katy Green, R.N., to approve the Minutes of November 20, 2008 as submitted. MOTION carried.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

None.

IV. HHSА FУ’S 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 OPERATIONAL PLAN

Nick Macchione, Director, HHSА, stated he was delighted to attend this EMCC meeting. Mr. Macchione has been with San Diego County for about twelve years and was the former Director of North Coastal and North Inland Regions of HHSА. He stated by listening to the dialogue of this meeting, how noticeable it is that EMS saves lives and makes a difference.

Mr. Macchione noted that currently there is no State budget in effect for 2009-2010. Bob Pfohl, EMCC Chair, attended the meeting in December that Mr. Macchione had with all Advisory Board Chairs. With decreased funding from the State, services may need to be reduced or restructured so therefore, a prioritization of services or programs has to be submitted to the County Board of Supervisors from HHSА. There are hundreds of thousands of people on public assistance, housing assistance, and rental assistance and many of those people may be receiving a reduction in their aid or perhaps nothing at all. Some people will lose their health care coverage and will end up being seen in the emergency room which is more costly. There is a great concern for people with chronic diseases and obtaining their routine care. Why are there patients coming into emergency rooms 15-18 times a year for services is one issue being reviewed for a cost savings. More mental health patients need to be stabilized so they’re not using up emergency departments, paramedic and EMS services as much.

Mr. Macchione reminded attendees that HHSА had been through a similar situation before in 2004. He asked for input on what attendees would recommend for any services that could be done in a different way or review creative ways of staffing. All Advisory Boards are being asked the same questions.

Jim Marugg, Vice-Chair, informed attendees that when Bob Pfohl went to the Advisory Board Chairs meeting, the Chairs were given instructions on prioritizing programs such as high, medium and low priorities or eliminating the service. Service levels were also to be categorized as “keep as is” or “reduce/change.”

MOTION made by Kelly Forman, R.N., Seconded by Mary Meadows-Pitt, R.N., to approve the following three categories all listed as “High Priority;” and to “keep as is.”

- 1. Management of medical emergency transport systems within County of San Diego: paramedic coordination, surveillance, reporting base hospital coordination.**
- 2. Management of trauma services system for San Diego County.**
- 3. Management of County of San Diego emergency medical response disaster and coordination activities.**

In addition, EMCC recommended investing funds in the Information Technology arena to increase efficiency in providing EMS core functions and meeting EMS regulatory requirements. MOTION carried.

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

Flu Season Update: Hospital emergency departments have been busy but not much with flu symptoms. There was an increase in reported flu cases a few weeks ago. On the national level, the isolates have been resistant to Tami-flu so the Center for Disease Control is recommending another anti-viral such as an oral treatment. Hand-washing needs to continue to be emphasized.

Hospital Capacity Plan: The Plan has gone out to the hospitals and the emphasis this year is looking at the entire hospital, rather than just the emergency departments and involving hospital administrations.

Offload Delays: Have been minimal lately. Preventing significant ambulance offload delays is the highest priority this year.

The new Sharp Memorial Hospital: Sharp opened up their new hospital this past week and it is beautiful.

Stroke Update: The criteria for approval to receive acute stroke patients has gone out to the hospitals and County EMS will conduct reviews, probably in early spring, 2009, for those hospitals not certified as a primary stroke center by the Joint Commission.

STEMI System Update: The third quarter report was just presented at the Cardiac Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting. Door-to-balloon times of 57-58 minutes are excellent. Some false-positives will be reviewed.

CARES Registry: The CARES (Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival) Registry, run through Emory University is being reviewed to see if the data collection system can assist with evaluating cardiac arrest care survivability.

Protocols Reviewed: The proposed protocol changes were presented at the Base Station Physicians’ Committee meeting on January 20, 2009 and some revisions were suggested. Some changes up for consideration included adult I.O.’s, blunt trauma, criteria to pronounce patients dead in the field, tourniquets, and the King airway.

POLST (Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment): The Governor signed AB 3000 mandating the POLST form be recognized in California, effective January 1, 2009. The document allows the recording of a patient's resuscitation preference or status, as well as directions for other resuscitative care. The form is completed by the primary physician based on patient preferences and medical indications.

ROC (Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium): The ROC study regarding shock has begun once again with the use of hypertonic saline study for head-injured patients; the patients who are hypotensive have now been excluded from the ROC study. The Cardiac Arrest portion is now starting as well.

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

EMS Employee Updates: Susan Smith, R.N., will be working on the prehospital side of EMS and is attending many of the EMS meetings to better understand the full scope of the EMS system. LeAnne Lovett-Floom, R.N., is working on the disaster side with the hospitals and the HPP (Hospital Preparedness Program). Two analyst positions have also been filled recently.

State Trauma System: The State Trauma System held a summit in June, 2008 at which five regional care trauma systems were formed throughout the State. San Diego is in the Southeast Region and will work on putting together trauma triage quality improvement, repatriation and trauma funding. The Southeast Region includes San Diego, Imperial, San Bernardino, Mono, Inyo and Riverside Counties. The next annual meeting is tentatively scheduled for San Diego in June, 2009.

Trauma American College of Surgeons: Site visits will be held to comply with a three year cycle certification process for trauma centers. The first hospital visited will be Rady Children's next week.

EMS Commission: The State EMS Commission met in December, 2008 and Dr. Haynes was named EMS Medical Director of the Year for California for 2007.

State of California EMS License Plate: The State EMS Authority has been working on a EMS license plate with the State Department of Motor Vehicles with net proceeds to benefit EMS, health professionals, and the State Environmental License Plate Fund. New sequential plates are \$50 with a \$40 annual renewal fee. Personalized plates are \$90 with a \$70 annual renewal fee. The EMS Authority must first collect 7,500 applications before the DMV will begin issuing the new plates. If the 7,500 application target is not met, all application fees will be refunded for those who applied.

State-wide Pandemic Exercise/Golden Guardian Drill: A state-wide Pandemic exercise will be held on June 18, 2009. There will not be Golden Guardian drill in 2009.

VII. SET NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 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