



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

NICK MACCHIONE, FACHE
DIRECTOR

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

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, April 23, 2009

Members Present

Broyles, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses’ Association
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
Jacoby, M.D., Jake – Fourth District
Johnson, Wayne – S.D. Co. Ambulance Association
Marugg, Jim – S.D. Co. Paramedics’ Association
Outlaw, Liz – Hosp. Assoc. S.D./Imperial Counties

County Staff Present

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

Recorder

Rupp, Merle

Members Absent

Cerny, Barbara – Third District
Dipretoro, Scott – American Red Cross
Green, R.N., Katy – First District
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – Second District
Musgrove, Lt. Ed – Law Enforcement Agencies
Pfohl, Bob – S.D. Co. Fire Chiefs’ Association

Guests Present

Fessenden, Mike – American Medical Response
Hildebraut, Gordon – Mercy Air
Kusman, Travis – American Medical Response
Majerczak, R.N., Karen – Tri-City
Sonderekei, Dorita – Mercy Air

Vacant

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

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Jake Jacoby, M.D., new County Fourth District EMCC member, was introduced.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION made by Kelly Forman, R.N., Seconded by Linda Broyles, R.N., to approve the Minutes of January 22, 2009 as submitted. MOTION carried.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

None.

IV. EMCC PREHOSPITAL/HOSPITAL SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT (Jim Marugg)

MOTION made by Wayne Johnson, Seconded by Kelly Forman, R.N., to approve the policies B-325, B-326, B-327 and the EMT-B Optional Skills Competency Verification form as submitted. MOTION carried.

Mr. Johnson thanked Bruce Haynes, M.D., County EMS Medical Director, for including language to assist in selection of appropriate EMT candidates for the optional skills programs, which will make it easier for them to obtain internships and ride-alongs. The EMT will have a certification card that will list optional skills when earned.

V. DIVERSION CAPACITY (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)

During the last month, the number of transports increased. Patients requesting a specific facility that had to bypass minimally increased in December, 2008 but is only 2%. Many patients appear to be telemetry patients who are often held in emergency rooms for long periods of time. Sharp Memorial has a 100% telemetry hospital so the patients can go anywhere in the hospital. The flu season has been mild and approximately eight weeks ago the lab isolates peaked, then decreased after that. County EMS receives data from ten hospitals and clinics which has had substantial increases a few days here and there, and in the last two weeks the activity has increased.

An off-load study was completed and will go to the Capacity Task Force for review which meets on May 1, 2009. Susan Smith, R.N., County EMS, talks to the nursing directors at the South Bay hospitals on a daily basis where there are on-going off-load issues. Mr. Johnson added that Alvarado Hospital has gone from an average of two hour off-load delays to approximately 26 minutes.

Travis Kusman, American Medical Response, stated that a new prehospital/emergency department monitoring system in Nevada allows the paramedics to walk-in to the emergency room, enter their unit number, patient's name and provider number into a computer and have the information time-stamped. As soon as the patient is assigned an emergency room bed, the nurse logs the patient in so you see when the patient offloaded.

The system tracks ambulances waiting for emergency room beds and this information is shared among the hospitals so they know how many patients are waiting for how long at each hospital. The program works in conjunction with First Watch.

VI. EMT 2010 PROJECT PRESENTATION (Marcy Metz, R.N., Chief)

In response to State Assembly Bill 2917, the State EMS Authority is developing regulations regarding changes in the EMT statutes with major provisions in the bill. The State is to initiate a central registry for all EMT's requiring criminal background checks and will allow local EMS agencies to conduct investigations which could lead to certification actions. County EMS submitted comments to the State during the pre-public comment period and the State reconvened the EMT 2010 task force to review comments that were submitted from around the State. A public comment period will be forthcoming soon. Initial certification will rise to \$75 and \$37 for certification renewal effective July 1, 2010. There will also be an increase in the paramedic fees. Live scan fees will be in addition to these fees.

When an out-of-state paramedic or EMT comes to California to certify or re-certify, they will be required to pay the fees for an FBI and a DOJ (Department of Justice) background check.

Regulations for investigations and discipline are currently being developed as well where the local County EMS Medical Director will still have the certification authority. A local EMS agency may conduct an investigation but any action on a certification will have to follow the Administrative Practice Law and have an administrative law judge hear the case. Part of the fee the State is collecting will go into the Administrative Law judges fund pool, and then any agencies that have had to go through the administrative law procedure submit claims for reimbursement.

As more information comes available it will be shared with the committee. A public comment period is tentatively scheduled for mid-June.

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

There was a report in the newspaper this week about isolates of swine flu in San Diego and Imperial Counties. Soon after, precautions for infection control were sent out to the community. This particular strain of Swine flu can be transmitted from human to human. Seven days is the incubation period if somebody's known to be exposed or becomes ill.

There is a concern from the EMT Fire Chiefs Subcommittee that hospitals are withholding information from prehospital agencies on patients as a result of high-profile patient medical records that were compromised. These events led to the rapid passage of two bills in the State Legislature that took effect January 1, 2009 that placed severe sanctions on hospitals and their employees if they relay private medical information. Fines can be up to \$250,000 and a medical professional could lose his/her license.

The County's Sexual Assault Examiners want evidence of sexually assaulted victims to be preserved as long as possible while the victims are in the emergency department.

The annual protocols are finished and will take effect July 1, 2009 with the assistance of Ms. Smith who is also assisting in the education component.

The Cardiac System is continuing to work well with the median door-to-balloon time on activated cases from the field between 57-58 minutes.

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

Certification/re-certification hours at County EMS have been reduced due to administrative re-structuring. Days/hours of operation are now Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and closed on Fridays.

The State-wide pandemic influenza exercise is scheduled for Thursday, June 18, 2009. Hospitals and clinics are participating and the County's Medical Operations Center (MOC) will be activated.

IX. SET NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2009 at 9:00 a.m., at the County's Health Services Complex, Departmental Operations Center, 3851 Rosecrans Street, San Diego.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Merle Rupp, Board Secretary
County EMS