



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

NICK MACCHIONE, FACHE
DIRECTOR

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

Emergency Medical Care Committee
Bob Pfohl, Chair/Jim Marugg, Vice-Chair
c/o Emergency Medical Services
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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, June 25, 2009

Members Present

Carlson, R.N., Sharon – Hosp. Assoc. S.D./Imperial Co’s.
Cerny, Barbara – Third District
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
Jacoby, M.D., Jake – Fourth District
Majerczak, R.N., Karen – Base Hosp. Nurse Coordinators
Marugg, Jim – S.D. Co. Paramedics’ Association
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – Second District
Rosenberg, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses’ Association
Scott, Chief Mike – S.D. Co. Fire Chiefs’ Association

Vacant

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

Members Absent

Dipretoro, Scott – American Red Cross
Fisher, Chief Gary – S.D. Co. Fire Districts’ Assoc.
Musgrove, Lt. Ed – Law Enforcement Agencies

Guests Present

Johnson, Wayne – S.D. Med. Services Enterprise

County Staff Present

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

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 Bruce Fried, to approve the Minutes of April 23, 2009 as submitted. MOTION carried.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

None.

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

Some additional revisions were suggested to policies P-806 and P-807. Rebecca Pate, R.N., County EMS, will take the suggested revisions and incorporate them and re-send them out for final review. **MOTION made by Kelly Forman, R.N., Seconded by Chief Mike Scott, to approve policies P-806 and P-807 with the suggested revisions. MOTION carried.**

V. H1N1 INFLUENZA UPDATE (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)

A decrease in reported H1N1 cases and flu viruses in general had been seen until recently, with a young woman dying at Palomar Medical Center from H1N1 this past week. There have been approximately 330 documented H1N1 cases in the State of California with sixteen deaths throughout the State. The deaths have been people that had high risk factors, in all age groups. County EMS activated its' Medical Operations Center (MOC) performing logistics and information for County Epidemiology and Disease Control during the outbreak. As time passed with the H1N1, guidelines with information about the flu and on personal protective equipment and decontamination were disseminated to try to prevent transmission of the infection to health care workers in the field. Zofran was added due to the high incidence of vomiting with H1N1. County EMS took receipt of a shipment from the regional Strategic National Stockpile for the first time acquiring a large supply of Tamiflu. Tamiflu was distributed to hospitals, clinics and university health services and a plan was devised to have Tamiflu available in certain San Diego County pharmacy locations so physicians could write prescriptions for it.

A follow-up debriefing was held on June 18, 2009 with input from various stakeholders (fire, law, hospitals, clinics, military, etc.) to discuss the H1N1 experience. This was well attended and many good ideas were presented. Vaccinations were also discussed. The preliminary vaccine for H1N1 has been developed and may be available by autumn, 2009.

The Centers for Disease Control released a brief report this past week on health care workers who were found to have the H1N1 virus and discovered that less than 50% of the ones with the disease were infected at work. Many workers were infected in outpatient settings where there was very little use of personal protective equipment.

VI. EMT 2010 UPDATE (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)

County EMS staff attended a meeting in Los Angeles yesterday (June 24, 2009) to learn more about the EMT 2010 Project. FBI and DOJ criminal background checks will be conducted on new EMT's as of July 1, 2010 and new procedures for discipline will be developed. The State sent out a pre-public comment draft to EMS agencies concerning the regulations. The State of California will be the primary recipient of subsequent arrest notifications with the County as back-up. The suggested changes are accessible on the State EMSA website.

VII. STROKE SYSTEM OF CARE (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)

Developing a more organized system of care for stroke in San Diego County has been on-going. Beginning July 1, 2009, if the person is an acute stroke patient in the field with an onset of symptoms three hours or less, the patient will go to a hospital that has been approved by the County to be a Stroke Receiving Center. Hospitals not seeking Joint Commission Stroke Certification are being reviewed to determine if they meet criteria regarding stroke care. Those approved, in addition to those already Joint Commission certified, will be identified to receive acute stroke patients. Currently fifteen hospitals will be participating and another may be added. Dr. Haynes will be sending out a letter to the base hospitals with further information.

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

The new County EMS protocols take effect July 1, 2009.

EMCC previously approved the EMT Optional Scope of Practice policies and one of the training programs seeking approval to teach the optional skills is close to being finalized. The program is focused on use in rural areas such as Borrego Springs and Mt. Laguna.

There has been a recent glitch with paramedic re-licensure with the State as a result of confusion about a current list of approved continuing education providers. Some paramedics were informed they were denied license renewal. The issue was thought to be resolved a couple of weeks ago but re-surfaced again, and is being addressed.

IX. EMS STAFF REPORT (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)

The Hospital Capacity Task Force will be re-convening a meeting this date. The group meets every year prior to the flu season but has met more often the last couple of years. The group will be reviewing the First Watch pilot program.

The Community Health Statistics Unit of EMS has recently released reports on suicide, healthy people and senior health. The Unit will be doing a childhood injury report and emergency department volumes and characteristics of emergency departments report. Reports from this group are available on the County EMS website.

X. SET NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, July 23, 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 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Merle Rupp, Board Secretary
County EMS