



# County of San Diego

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

### PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

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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  
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San Diego, CA 92120  
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### 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 24, 2009

#### Members Present

Broyles, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses’ Association  
Carlson, R.N., Sharon – Hosp. Assoc. S.D./Imperial Co.’s  
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  
Jacoby, M.D., Jake – Fourth District  
Marugg, Jim – S.D. Co. Paramedics’ Association  
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – Second District  
Musgrove, Lt. Ed – Law Enforcement Agencies  
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

#### Recorder

Rupp, Merle

#### Members Absent

Cerny, Barbara – Third District  
Dipretoro, Scott – American Red Cross

#### Guests Present

Brown, Mark – Nat. Polytechnic College Science  
Bull, R.N., Pat – American Red Cross  
Endicott, Darcey – Military Agencies  
Foehr, Rick – EMSTA College  
Francis, R.N., Allen – State of CA Corrections/Rehab  
Johnson, Wayne – S.D. Medical Services Enterprise  
Kusman, Travis – American Medical Response  
Martin, Holly – American Red Cross  
Smart, Brian – West Med College

#### County Staff Present

Flores, Carlos  
Haynes, M.D., Bruce  
Metz, R.N., Chief, Marcy  
Smith, R.N., Susan

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

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

Darcey Endicott, representing the Military Agencies, was welcomed to her first EMCC meeting.

Attendees introduced themselves.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION made by Kelly Forman, R.N., Seconded by Chief Gary Fisher, to approve the Minutes of June 25, 2009 as submitted. MOTION carried.**

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS**

Rick Foehr, EMSTA College, stated that his school is the only private accredited paramedic training agency in San Diego County. As EMSTA College went through the process of paramedic training program approval, they received an agreement from hospitals and ALS agencies, with the exception of four ALS agencies for paramedic internship. The County agreed to approve EMSTA College's program as long as EMSTA continued to pursue the other agencies. Mr. Foehr stated that the number of available paramedic internship slots, in both hospitals and agencies, is extremely limited in San Diego County.

**IV. TRAUMA SYSTEM 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY (Marcy Metz, R.N., Chief)**

The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the San Diego County trauma system occurred this month and festivities have included a proclamation from the County Board of Supervisors presented to the trauma hospitals on September 15, 2009. A 25-minute video premiered at Scripps La Jolla regarding the trauma system. The trauma nurse coordinators applied for a grant through County Television Network for this and a shorter eight minute clip was developed. The shorter clip was shown to EMCC attendees. The trauma system is a successful public/private partnership and San Diego's trauma system is one that is acknowledged internationally for excellence.

Chairperson Bob Pfohl added that once the system went into place, paramedics quickly saw the benefits of delivering appropriate patients to trauma hospitals and embraced the system.

**V. EMT 2010 (Carlos Flores)**

The State is in the process of making changes to Title 22 regarding regulations for EMT's. San Diego County EMS has been developing policies to match the changes from the State to go into effect July 1, 2010. Background checks will include FBI checks. There has been some informational technology difficulties with the State but hopefully access to the State registry will become easier with the new system. The EMT-Intermediate classification will no longer be used; EMT-Advanced will be authorized

when the regulations take effect. Paramedics will no longer be called EMT-Paramedics, only Paramedics. A fee of \$75 will occur for EMT's only if they have not been live-scanned. If previously live-scanned it must be one that clears them through the Department of Justice and provides a subsequent arrest notification. The re-certification fee for EMT's will be \$37, not including the County fees, but if not background checked, they will have to pay the full \$75. The State has sent the proposed changes out for public review and they will go before the State EMS Commission in December, 2009.

**VI. CEMSIS (California EMS Information System) (Marcy Metz, R.N., Chief)**

The CEMSIS system is a priority project for EMS which is mandated by the State to go into effect by July 1, 2009. Meetings have been going on for several years to develop the data set and data dictionary to send that out to local agencies which will develop into both a state-wide and national data base. County EMS staff have been working with the vendor to make CEMSIS compliant with the Quality Assurance Network (QCS). Super-users will test the system in October, 2009 and Susan Smith, R.N., County EMS, is currently reviewing the elements and the data base. Ms. Metz thanked those who have agreed to test the system as super-users. There will be state-wide CEMSIS training on September 28, 2009 in San Diego.

**VII. H1N1 UPDATE (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)**

As of September 23, 2009, there were 1,214 reported H1N1 cases but the figure could be misleading as testing is only being done in hospitals when the patient has been admitted to the intensive care units. In San Diego County there have been 22 deaths with a range in age of four months to 89 years. The average age of death is 47 years. Reports coming from the southern hemisphere indicate that the virus is not mutating and there has been no change in the virus. The State of California recently changed the definition of a suspected case; it is now somebody under the age of 60 with a fever over 100 degrees with a new onset of cough. Good news has been coming out that indicates only one shot will be required for H1N1 and one for the seasonal flu for adults.

Measures to prevent getting the flu: stay away from those who are ill, frequent hand washing, using alcohol cleansers in the field, cover coughs and sneezes, and avoid touching your face and mouth. Health care workers with influenza-like illnesses should be excluded from work for seven days after symptom onset or until the resolution of symptoms, whichever is longer. This is intended to protect patients and fellow employees from contracting influenza.

If an EMT or paramedic is around a patient that appears to have H1N1, they are to use a surgical mask on the patient and themselves, and depending on the patient, use a gown, gloves and eye shield if necessary. For higher risk procedures such as intubation, use an N-95 mask. Cal-OSHA regulations mandates aerosol protection so the N-95 mask should be used.

A survey is being conducted at this time of field providers to ascertain how many masks they possess and to see if there's problems with fit-testing. County Public Health is holding meetings around the community with private sectors to get the word out regarding H1N1.

Sharon Carlson, R.N., Hospital Association of San Diego and Imperial Counties, added that hospitals have a shortage of N-95 masks, but through the Healthcare Preparedness Program (HPP) and H1N1 grants, orders are being submitted next week for more.

Dr. Haynes stated that some helpful information on re-using masks is available on the Cal-OSHA and State websites.

**VIII. PARAMEDIC TRAINING (Wayne Johnson, S.D. Medical Services Enterprise)**

Wayne Johnson, President of the San Diego County Ambulance Association, thanked EMCC for placing this item on the agenda. Mr. Johnson explained that beginning in the early 1970's, only one paramedic training agency existed in San Diego County. Several EMT training agencies through the community colleges and a regional occupational program existed at one time or another later, as well as one through UCSD Extension which changed names several times. Those all disappeared and Palomar and Southwestern Colleges became the training agencies for San Diego County.

Currently there is a different hierarchy with ALS first responders coupled with the advent of different aspects of competition through paramedic training throughout the State, so there are more training locations. In the last year and one-half, three more training agencies have come into fruition. If a program has an established training agency somewhere else in the State, and they want to begin operations in San Diego County, there's no local jurisdiction. To begin in the system today, programs need to have agreements from hospitals for clinical internship and from ALS agencies for field internship.

Currently, San Diego Medical Services Enterprises experiences constant training. At a recent gurney training event with 25 ambulances present, only two ambulances did not have either an EMT or paramedic intern on board being trained or others doing a ride-along.

**MOTION made by Kelly Forman, R.N., Seconded by Dan Graham, to forward this issue of Paramedic Training for discussion and review to the EMCC Education and Research Subcommittee, Chaired by Bruce Fried. MOTION carried.**

(Chairperson Bob Pfohl excused himself from this meeting at this time and Vice-Chair Jim Marugg assumed the Chair.)

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

Rebecca Pate, R.N., County EMS staff, being in the Navy Reserve was recently deployed and is currently serving in Afghanistan. Please refer any questions anyone may have to either Susan Smith, Carlos Flores, Ms. Metz or Dr. Haynes in her absence.

The Capacity Task Force met recently and is drafting some recommendations for changes to the Plan to be effective July 1, 2010.

The Stroke system which began operations July 1, 2009, appears to be running well and no complaints have been received from the hospitals accepting stroke patients. The time period for identifying a stroke patient with symptom onset in the previous three hours has been bumped up to three and-one-half to four hours should hospitals desire to modify that.

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

A board letter will be coming forth for approval at either the October 22<sup>nd</sup> or November 19<sup>th</sup> EMCC meeting for a spare wheel exemption for agencies that qualify and have requested this status.

A representative from County HHSA will attend either the October 22<sup>nd</sup> or November 19<sup>th</sup> EMCC meeting to brief EMCC members information on the Health Strategy Agenda, a vision moving forward into the future to 2020.

There will be an Overcrowding Summit on Wednesday, October 14, 2009 presented by the Emergency Medical Oversight Committee (EMOC) at Scripps La Jolla.

**XI. SET NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 22, 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 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Merle Rupp, Board Secretary  
County EMS