



EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting:
Friday, April 25, 2008 - 9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>CATEGORY REPRESENTED</u>	<u>OCEMS / HDM STAFF</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Huan Vu Nguyen, MD	- Board of Supervisors, First District	Sam Stratton, MD	- EMS Medical Director
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cathy Green, RN, JD	- Board of Supervisors, Second District	Ken Miller, MD	- EMS Assistant Medical Director
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Winder	- Board of Supervisors, Third District	Amy Ashland	- EMS Secretary
<input type="checkbox"/> Harvinder Sahota, MD	- Board of Supervisors, Fourth District	Beverly Nighswonger, RN	- Facilities Coordinator
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Schuetz, MD	- Board of Supervisors, Fifth District		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Fielder	- American Red Cross, OC Chapter		
<input type="checkbox"/> Jody Haynes, RN	- Orange Coast Emergency Nurses Assn.	<u>OTHERS PRESENT</u>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maureen Zehntner	- Hospital Association of So. Calif.	Jim Ruane	- OCFA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christopher Kahn, MD	- Society of OC Emergency Physicians	Bill Weston	- Care Ambulance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greg Pate	- Ambulance Association of OC		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jon Dumitru	- League of California Cities		
<input type="checkbox"/> Peter Bastone	- OC Business Council		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Douglas Reilly	- OC City Managers Association		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Duane Olson	- OC Fire Chiefs Association		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Ritter, MD	- OC Medical Association		
<input type="checkbox"/> John Schaefer	- OC Police Chiefs/Sheriffs Assn.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Anna T. Boyce, RN	- OC Senior Citizens Advisory Council		

I. **EMCC MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Ritter, Chair.

II. **INTRODUCTIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MSC: The February 22, 2008 minutes were approved as written.

IV. **OCEMS REPORT / CORRESPONDENCE**

Hospital Diversion:

Greg Boswell reported that the February diversion hours were the busiest they have had in years and believe it was due to the late flu season.

Disaster Preparations:

Greg Boswell reported that they are working with the hospitals and advisory groups on how to spend the grant monies for response to disaster in the county. The CDC grant was cut from prior years and may get more cuts in preparedness grants. May not receive any grant money for Pandemic. On behalf of the hospital nets the Hospital Association sent a letter to the UASI planning group for the cities and requested that they get better cooperation in planning the exercises to meet Joint Commission requirements for disaster drills.

Stroke Care Treatment:

Greg Boswell reported that there were issues with fire regarding the mandatory in-service requirements this year, and therefore EMS will be moving the June-July mandates to January-February of next year. EMS has received interest from seven hospitals and will move forward accepting applications for designation of stroke neuro centers after the mandates the first part of 2009. Will go to the committees for approval of the stroke centers and have drafted a letter that will go to the Board of Supervisors.

EMS Week:

EMS Week is May 18-24, 2008. Will not be doing the tail gate party at Anaheim Stadium this year but will have an EMS Appreciation Day at Irvine Park - Sunday, May 18. Members were provided with a flyer. The No Fear Conference will be at Mission Hospital on May 16. The EMS Awards ceremony will be at UCI on May 21 with a BBQ afterwards. For more information you can go to the EMS Week webpage at: ohealthinfo.com/emsweek.

Anaheim Memorial Sale:

There has been an offer to buy Anaheim Memorial Hospital by Pacific Health. The approval will have to go to the State Attorney General for a public hearing and hopefully is approved by June or July. The main concerns EMS has with the sale is that they maintain the level of serviced offered, continue to provide a space provided for the "Safe Place" sexual assault treatment center, and that the hospital becomes a full-base hospital with radio capabilities. Anaheim Fire's concerns were that they will be adding several more paramedic units in the future and also want Anaheim Memorial to become a full-base hospital due to the increases in the Anaheim area.

Kaiser – Irvine:

EMS has completed a site visit to the new Kaiser Permanent hospital in Irvine. It is located across the street from Irvine Regional hospital. The two hospitals have a mutual agreement to have Kaiser's patients who requested to be taken to Kaiser as their home hospital be taken to Kaiser and all other patients will be taken to Irvine Regional. Representatives from both hospitals were present at the meeting for questions. Kaiser - Irvine will be open for emergency services starting May 15 at 7 a.m.

V. **PUBLIC FORUM**

No comments were made.

VI. **OLD BUSINESS**

No report.

VII. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Ground Ambulance Services Basic Life Support (BLS) Rates Adjustment and Advanced Life Support (ALS) Rate.**

BLS Rate:

In accordance with Orange County Emergency Medical Services Policy 720.00, Section 314, *Orange County Ambulance Rules and Regulations Related to Ground Service Rates Adjustment*, the City Managers and Fire Chiefs (of cities that adopted the Orange County Ambulance Ordinance) were notified of the proposed basic life support (BLS) rates and invited to provide written or verbal comments. The BLS calculated rate adjustment is presented today for a recommendation by the EMCC to the Board of Supervisors.

Greg Boswell reported that at the 9/11/07 Board of Supervisors meeting the Board approved a new methodology for an annual review of the maximum allowable ground emergency ambulance rates where OCEMS will review the all items Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County and multiply this factor by 150%

Bill Weston, Director of Care Ambulance and president of the Ambulance Association of Orange County presented a power point presentation regarding the new methodology of the BLS rate increases

MSC: **Recommend that the Emergency Medical Care Committee endorse the proposed FY 2008-09 ground ambulance services basic life support (BLS) rates as presented.**

ALS Rate: On 5/11/04, the Orange County Health Care Agency was directed to return to the Board of Supervisors annually to adjust the Orange County Fire Authority's maximum advanced

life support (ALS) fee by the same percentage change as the maximum emergency BLS rate for the same period, but not to exceed the OCFA's actual costs for providing ALS services. The City Managers and Fire Chiefs (of member cities of OCFA) were notified of the proposed ALS rate and invited to provide written or verbal comments for consideration at today's Emergency Medical Care Committee meeting.

Jim Ruane from the Orange County Fire gave a summary and presented members with the "Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) Advance Life support (ALS) / Medical Supplies proposed Fiscal Year 2008/09 Rate Adjustments" and a letter from the Ambulance Association supporting the rates.

MSC: Recommend that the Emergency Medical Care Committee endorse the Orange County Fire Authority's proposed FY 2008-09 advanced life support (ALS) as presented.

B. Paramedic Receiving Center Designations:

MSC: EMCC recommended that OCEMS designate the following PRCs:

- **(February 2008– February 2011) #608.10**
- **(March 2008 – March 2011) #633.10**
- **(March 2008 – March 2009) #619.10**
- **(February 2008 – February 2009) Kaiser Medical Center - Irvine**

IX. EMCC ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE AND ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS

- A. **Facilities Advisory Committee** – EMS will be participating with researchers and the trauma centers on a study using a higher concentration of saline solution on patients.
- B. **County Paramedic Advisory Committee** – Dr. Stratton is asking for feedback from out in the field on the new treatment procedures implemented January – February.
- C. **Education & Training Advisory Committee** – Greg Boswell reported that they are working on developing an expanded scope of practices for EMTs.
- D. **Transportation Advisory Committee** – No report
- E. **Disaster Advisory Group** – No report
- F. **Trauma Operations Committee** – No report

X. MEMBER COMMENTS

XI. NEXT MEETING – June 27, 2008, at 9:00 a.m.

XII. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.