



FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 11, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.
 Meeting held via Zoom Video Conferencing

MINUTES

MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS

- Peter Anderson, MD (exc.) - OCMA/ED Physicians
- Michael Lekawa, MD - Trauma Medical Directors
- Chien Sun, MD, MD - Managed Health Care Physicians
- Mary Birkle, RN - Base Hospital Administrators
- Vacant - ERC Hospital Administrators
- Cyndie Strader, RN - Base Hospital Coordinators
- Represented by Ruth Clark, RN*
- Sheryl Riccardi, RN - OC ED Nursing Leadership
- Mary Slattery, RN - Trauma Program Coordinators
- Represented by Anabella Anderson, RN*
- Greg Boswell, RN (exc) - Fire Chiefs EMS Committee

REPRESENTING

- Carl Schultz, MD
- Gagandeep Grewal, MD
- Sam Stratton, MD
- Laurent Repass, NRP
- Danielle Ogaz
- Adrian Rodriguez
- Vicki Sweet, RN
- Meng Chung, EMT-P
- David Johnson, RN
- Jason Azuma, EMT-P
- Erica Moojen
- Eileen Endo

OCEMS STAFF PRESENT

- EMS Medical Director
- Associate EMS Medical Director
- EMS Physician
- EMS Information Systems Chief
- EMS Systems & Standards Chief
- EMS Performance Chief
- ALS/CQI Coordinator
- BLS Coordinator
- EMS Facilities Coordinator
- OC-MEDS Coordinator
- EMS Office Supervisor
- Office Specialist

GUESTS PRESENT

NAME

REPRESENTING

- Jordan Abushawish - Providence St. Joseph
- Julia Afrasiabi, RN - UCI Medical Center
- Whitney Ayers - Hospital Association of Southern California
- Nicolas Berkuta - OC Heart
- Drew Bernard - Emergency Ambulance Service
- Kristin Christophersen -
- Todd Costa - Orange County Fire Authority
- Laura Cross, RN - Mission Hospital
- Josh Dean - Premier Ambulance Service
- Laura Derr -
- David Gorin -
- Brandon Grinstead - Orange County Fire Authority
- Gloria Guerra, RN - St. Jude Medical Center

NAME

REPRESENTING

- Nicole Harwood -
- Julie Mackie, RN - Mission Hospital
- Nicole Miller, RN - Mission Hospital
- Nicole Plouffe, RN - Children's Hospital of Orange County
- Kristen Pugh -
- Sharon Richards - Hospital Association of Southern California
- Sergey Sergyev - Celebrating Life Unity Health Care
- Bill Sullivan - Orange County Fire Authority
- Amy Taxin - AP
- Robert Viera - Care Ambulance Service
- Chris Waddell, RN - Huntington Beach Hospital
- Amy Waunch, RN - Children's Hospital of Orange County
- Augustus (Titus) Ynares, RN - Los Alamitos Medical Center

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Michael Lekawa, MD, who served as acting Chair.

II. INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None made.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the November 9, 2021, meeting was approved as submitted.

IV. OCEMS REPORT

Presented by Dr. Schultz:

• OCEMS Report:

Dr. Carl Schultz reported on the new drugs that are used to combat COVID-19. The decision-making process for drug distribution is between the State and Public Health Departments and EMS does not play a role in its dispensing. One of the new drugs has not been found to be effective. Another new drug is a combination of two new monoclonal prophylaxis that is being distributed directly to hospitals and is used only primarily for cancer and transplant patients. Monoclonal antibodies have been found to be effective in use for omicron patients going to the hospital.

Danielle Ogaz reported that hospitals are now being asked to respond to the ReddiNet poll three times a week rather than twice a week. She stressed the importance of hospitals answering the poll and to update their HAV Bed data. OCEMS is required to send poll results to the State as these results affect the decision making process at both the County and State levels.

The State is willing to help hospitals with staffing challenges. EMS has notified hospital CEOs, CNOs, and ED Managers regarding additional staffing (nurses and paramedics) that is being offered via the State. Once all paperwork has been completed, the information is entered into a database and the sent to the State. The State is working directly with each facility. Dr. Lekawa commented that UCI Medical Center is anticipating 40 new nurses with more nurses coming in the following Monday. It is anticipated that California will reach it peak of cases by the end of January to mid-February.

- **Health Emergency Management (Disaster Report):**

Dr. Grewal reported that the Health Care Agency's Operations Center continues to be activated at a Level 2 alert status. He reported on the availability status of test kits, N95 masks, cleaning supplies, and the types of test kits available. He reported on the types of test kits. Any test kits past their expiration date may continue to be used. iHealth test kits should be used specifically for healthcare workers to return to work. Vaccination pods are increasing to ensure people are vaccinated.

- **Public Health (COVID) Update:**

Dr. Grewal presented a report on the number of COVID cases presently seen in comparison to that of a year ago. It has been noted that the Omicron strain seems to be a less severe form of the disease and is the dominant strain of COVID nationwide.

- **Specialty Centers (CCERC, SNRC, CVRC, Trauma):**

Julie Mackie reported that CHOC at Mission has seen an increased number of COVID positive pediatric patients that were transferred for admission to CHOC in Orange. Dr. Lekawa and trauma nurse coordinators reported the impact on the increase in ALS patients seen at trauma centers. The impact isn't the increase due to trauma patients but the increase in volume of ALS patients seems to have overwhelmed the system. Drs. Lekawa and Sauri (from Orange County Global Medical Center) have made the decision to not go down for trauma. Anabella Anderson reported that Mission Hospital has not had the need to go down for trauma. Laura Cross asked whether or not OCEMS is planning to issue a "no diversion" policy for stroke-neurology and CVRC as well. Dr. Schultz stated that at the present time there is no

- **Ambulance Patient Off-Load Times (APOT):**

Laurent Repass reported that APOT is much higher over a 30-day period since mid-December. The 90th percentile is at 34 minutes, 28 seconds during the month of December. The number of 9-1-1 transports in December is the highest recorded since the data have been tracked. Mr. Repass reported that the MHOAC report's daily trend is reported very Tuesday and Thursday.

- **Facility Diversion Report (2021 Annual Report):**

Attached to the agenda is the Annual Hospital Diversion Report for the 2021 calendar year. Currently, diversion hours have been spiking since the end of November. Issues are not only COVID related but also due to staffing shortages. Trauma centers have posted 43 hours countywide in the month of January.

V. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None discussed.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Emergency Receiving Center/Specialty Receiving Center Designation / Redesignation**

Attached to the agenda is a Facility Designation Report prepared by Orange County EMS staff regarding the redesignation of the Stroke Neurology Receiving Center at Orange County Global Medical Center. Staff recommend that the hospital's redesignation be approved for a three year period effective November,

2021. This Facility Designation Report and the one presented in November have been placed on the agenda for the January 14, 2022 EMCC meeting.

The Facilities Advisory Committee recommended that the Emergency Medical Care Committee support the redesignation as indicated in the report.

- **Bi-Directional Data Exchange Project**

Laurent Repass reported the Health Care Agency has received grant funding which will allow for bi-directional data exchange between the e-PCR system and the hospitals. In return, EMS providers would be able to access outcome data.

- **Surge Mitigation**

Due to excessive demands for ambulance services, Orange County EMS has decided to extend the option of mutual aid beyond 9-1-1 ambulance providers to any licensed Orange County ambulance service provider. The intent is to expand the number of ambulances available to transport 9-1-1 patients.

VII. **OTHER BUSINESS**

IX. **NEXT MEETING** – Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.