



EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE



REGULAR MEETING

Friday, April 8, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

Location: Via Zoom

MINUTES

MEMBERSHIP/ ATTENDANCE

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>	<u>HEALTH CARE AGENCY STAFF</u>	
Michael S. Ritter, MD	– Orange County Medical Assn. (SOCEP)	Steve Thronson	Deputy Agency Director Medical Health Services
Arturo Pedroza	– Board of Supervisors-First District	Regina Chinsio-Kwong	County Health Officer
Lawrence A. Grihalva	– Board of Supervisors-Second District	Tammi McConnell	– EMS Division Director
Timothy Munzing, MD	– Board of Supervisors-Third District	Carl H. Schultz, MD	– EMS Medical Director
Luis Estevez	– Board of Supervisors-Fourth District	Gagandeep Grewal, MD	– Associate EMS Medical Director
Ted Heyming, MD	– Board of Supervisors-Fifth District	Rommel Navarro, PharmD	– Chief Pharmacist
Robert Viera	– Ambulance Assn. of Orange County	James Gee, PharmD	– Pharmacist
Becky Firey	American Red Cross	Laurent Repass, NREMT-P	– EMS Information Systems Chief
Rebecca Gomez	– City Selection Committee	Adrian Rodriguez	– EMS Performance Chief
Chief Adam Loeser	– Orange County Fire Chiefs Assn.	Danielle Ogaz	– EMS Systems & Standards Chief
David Gibbs, MD	– Orange County Medical Assn.	Wayne Tolosa	– Health Emergency Management Chief
Michael Killebrew	– Orange County City Managers Assn.	Denamarie Baker	– Sr. Emergency Management Program Coord.
Chief Stu Greenberg	– Orange County Police Chiefs & Sheriffs Assn.	Meng Chung	– BLS Coordinator
		David Johnson, RN	Facilities Coordinator
		Jason Azuma, NREMT-P	– OC-MEDS Coordinator
		Mike Chiles	– Program Supervisor II
		Maria Nava	– EMS Specialist
		Justin Newton	– EMS Specialist
		Andrew Roberts	– EMS Specialist
		Kirstin Wong	– EMS Specialist
		Erica Moojen	– EMS Office Supervisor
		Eileen Endo	– Office Specialist
		Lisa Wilson	– Information Processing Technician

GUESTS PRESENT

Jordan Abushawish	– Providence St. Joseph	Walt Lynch	– Lynch Ambulance Service
Julia Afrasiabi, RN	– UCI Medical Center	Julie Mackie, RN	– Mission Hospital
Whitney Ayers	– Hospital Association of S. California	Patrick Powers	– City of Placentia
Dave Barry	– Anaheim Fire and Rescue	Sharon Richards	– Hospital Association of Southern California
Jenny Beelke	– Lynch Ambulance Service	Phil Robinson	– City of Laguna Niguel
Drew Bernard	– Emergency Ambulance Service	Rhonda Rosati, RN	– Brea/Fullerton Fire Department
Randy Black	– Orange County Fire Authority	Karen Sharp, RN	– Saddleback Memorial Medical Center
Ruth Clark, RN	– Orange County Global Medical Center	Chief Dan Stefano	– Costa Mesa Fire Department
Laura Cross, RN	– Mission Hospital	Cyndie Strader, RN	– Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian
Chad Druten	– Emergency Ambulance Service	Christine Waddell, RN	– Huntington Beach Hospital
Bill Weston	– Emergency Ambulance Service	Kris Thompson	
Gloria Guerra, RN	– St. Jude Medical Center	Jacob Wagoner	– Lynch Ambulance Service
Vanessa Hayflich	– Mercy Air Service	Randy Webb	
Matthew Kaplan, MD	– Children’s Hospital of Orange County	Kim Zaky, RN	– Children’s Hospital of Orange County
Jeff Lopez	– Huntington Beach Fire Department	Jonathan Robinson	
Sean deMetropolis		Kim Nichols	
Eric Johnson		Robert Selway	
Elena Guardino		Orange Crush	
Theodore’s iPhone		Soraya Peters	
DBrothman			

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special presentations by Eileen Endo. Certificate of awards for Karen Sharp, RN, Michael Killebrew and Rob Viera/25 years

of service.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Schultz mentioned the misspelling of one of the two anti virals mentioned in the Medical Director's Report minutes: Paxlovid and Lomaviere should be Molnupiravir.

Minutes from the January 14, 2021, meeting were approved with the correction noted and submitted.

4. OCEMS REPORT

- **Medical Director's Report**

Dr. Schultz reported the new policies are posted in a new setting. Some people like to compare the current policy with the up and coming policy. The top policy will say current. The upcoming policy will say optional for 6 months. They will be listed simultaneously. Six new policies have been posted. Two more policies will be posted next week.

David Johnson has retired and is travelling. Mike Ritter acknowledged that he worked with David for 25 years at the hospital. He experienced the loss when David moved to EMS.

- **Health Emergency Management Report**

Dr. Grewal reported that the COVID 19 case rate has flattened out. Only 100 cases per 100,000. Decreasing since last week of 243 per 100,000. Hospital trend is 78 hospitals out of 100 and 2 ½ months ago it was 1200 shows a significant drop. Trending in the right direction. We don't know what the BA2 variant will do. AOC is still activated M-F. Supporting mobile vaccination PODs. Training with coalition members this summer.

Dr. Ritter asked to let the state know to help hospitals by sending a comment to the state pharmacy board doctors. All prescriptions are electronic. RX cannot be transferred electronically to pharmacies like CVS to another pharmacy. Paper prescription is not accepted. Doctors need to find out where the drugs are. Who has medications today? So when they write a Rx, the patient can pick up the medications and not be stuck without a source to get them. Retail pharmacies are scared of being cited by Pharmacy board.

- **Hospital Diversion Report (January 1 to March 31, 2022)**

Danielle Ogaz, presented the Hospital Diversion Report for the first quarter of 2022. Diversion was still suspended in January 2022. During the last surge OCEMS worked with ReddiNet and LA County to implement EDLA which diverted LA County Traffic from being transported to the border hospitals in Orange County. The hours for this diversion were included in the report.

- **Ambulance Patient Off-Load Time (APOT) Report: January 1 to December 31, 2021**

Laurent Repass reported the number of transports during the month of January and February. March report was posted yesterday. Winter through February was drastic effect on APOT. Most ambulance transports in January than ever seen before 44:05 90th percentile. February 15 + >30 minutes. 10+ > 60 minutes. Trend is down. Decline in 911 ambulance transports. March APOT time declined. We are close to normal baseline. At 27 minutes 49 seconds for March APOT times. Ambulance volume returned to normal. 5% lower than baseline APOT dashboard.

- **Bi-Directional Exchange Project**

Laurent requested this to be a standing item on committee meetings. It is a grant funded project by CDC One million dollars 2/3 data software, tech, IT, departments and 1/3 for hospital costs. EMS is amending contracts, adding what you need to get signed by each facility CEO to reimburse for hospital expense costs. This will take 2-3 months per hospital. July 2023 the project should be done and paid. EMS would like the technical side done by May 2023 to invoice and make sure all get paid.

EMCC Correspondence – Attachment #4.

Dr. Schultz presented these letters to committee for awareness. No action in required.

V. EMCC ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE AND ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS

- **Facilities Advisory Committee (March 8, 2022 meeting)**

Danielle Ogaz reported that FAC approved the hospital redesignations that will be presented later in this meeting. Next Facilities meeting is on May 10, 2022.

- **County Prehospital Advisory Committee (March 9, 2022 meeting)**
Next CPAC meeting is May 11, 2022.
- **Transportation Advisory Committee (April 6, 2022 meeting)**

Transportation Advisory Committee took place on April 6, 2022. Next meeting will be held July 6, 2022.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- **Ground Ambulance Emergency Rates FY 2022-2023**

Tammi McConnell reported it has been 5 years since 911 rates 2017 automated methodology. Minimum wage increase over 5 years. 2022 is the last year that rates get adjusted. This is just an information item. No action is required. EMCC should be aware since July 2020 this goes in effect. Board of Supervisors asks to increase base rate. We will internally renew it with executive group. FCC? puts forth all recommendations before board EMCC approve. Take advantage of the AAOC presentation to ask questions.

- **AAOC Rate Increase Presentation**

Chad Druten of emergency ambulance introduced Bill Weston who gave the presentation intro to EMS reimbursement.

Bill Weston AAOC of OC: Healthcare Reimbursement Introduction. Orange County has the lowest ambulance rates in the State of California. \$15-\$17 for EMTs. EMTs are leaving their jobs for fast-food jobs like Del Taco which pays up to \$20. OC is the 49th lowest in State for Medicaid and Medicare. Need to adjust ambulance rates to the Federal level CMS which is Medicare in California. State level medical is called Ca Optima in Orange County. The AAOC is trying to consolidate line items. Ambulance ordinance 3517: Board of Supervisors sets ambulance rates in Orange County.

This only covers 911 ambulance companies. The 3 ambulance companies covered are Care/Falck, Emergency and Doctors. During COVID these ambulance companies brought in 7 more ambulance companies to help with patient flow. It does not apply to city or fire operated ambulance or private ambulances.

We have all seen the effects of labor shortages at restaurants. New economic reality of \$20 becoming the expected normal wage. Cost of living is included in Northern California, Marin County, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz. Living wage is the bare minimum to get by.

Tammi McConnell mentioned that we need rates to be competitive. In 2014 RFP for 19 cities, there were 7 bidders. In 2019, there were only 2 bidders. The committee can ask questions. Waiting time for wall time charge \$68.50 for 15 minutes. 911 transports make money from IFT-ALS calls.

Karen Sharp asked how hospitals can help with this.

Tammi McConnell answered that solutions are contemplated at hospital.

Carl Schultz mentioned that Policy 310.96 formally addresses these issues.

Mike Killebrew asked if LB ambulance program could work with city. Eileen Endo will pass contact info of Chad Druten and Bill Weston to Mike Killebrew, so they can meet in Dana Point to discuss further items.

- **Ambulance Patient Off-Load Times Discussion**

Dr. Schultz Policy 310.96 are Guidelines for diversion status and APOT standard. It is a source for information regarding 30 minute standard APOT time to establish a baseline. Created Emergency options for ambulance wall times. VIII: amp interventions for prolonged APOT items. Worked well with patients on cots. State is looking at APOT times put burden on hospitals system of healthcare in order to make the entire system work. 30 minutes as standard is a good first start. This applies to BLS and ALS monitor. If patient needs to be on a cardiac monitor when they arrive if in hallways then patient should be on a cardiac monitor on cot. It is the hospital's decision. State recommendation is 20 minutes APOT. Hospital cannot use ambulance as a sole source of patient, either. Patient should be the center of decisions that are made.

Tammi McConnell Policy is specific to patient criteria. Cot is only for patient/ambulance for at least 60 minutes. This patient is not critical. If patient is stable in hallway for an hour – EMT is to monitor if patient is not a high level of care. Hospital could have elected to go on diversion, but they did not. The solution is basically to keep ambulance on the wall. Have ambulance company and hospital work together on a standard system to make it safe for the patient. These guidelines are options to help ambulance and hospital during APOT. Dr. Schultz wishes it was implemented before this policy came out. Relationship will be carried by ambulance. Karen sharp will bring up at ED Nurse meeting. Robert Viera experienced a lot of cooperation from hospitals working with the charge nurse. Implementing this trying to avoid cots as outliers. Optional- not a mandate. It is a tool to help

with what is best for the patient. Opportunity to gain leverage on what is best. Looking for input if changes are needed. Suggest review change language. Put in review for next meeting.

Dr. Mike Ritter would like Policy #3 10.96 to be posted as an up and coming unfinished business item for the next meeting. Eileen Endo, please send the policy 3 10.96 to committee for review.

Action Item:

• **Facilities Designation (Continuing) for Specialty Receiving Centers**

Danielle Oga z presented designation for facilities:

Los Alamitos 3 year redesignations, CVRC conditional 3 years, ERC conditional 3 years. Conditional items are outlined.

Fountain Valley CRC 3 year

Garden Grove ERC 3 year

St. Joseph ERC 3 year

Kaiser Anaheim ERC 3 year

The Emergency Medical Care Committee Chair, Mike Ritter, MD accepted first and second motions for approval.

VIII. MEMBER COMMENTS

IX. PUBLIC FORUM

X. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 8, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. (location to be determined)

XI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.