



# EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE



## REGULAR MEETING

Friday, April 6, 2018 – 9:00 am

*Location: Hall of Administration: Commission Hearing Room  
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana, California 92701*

## MINUTES

### MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE

#### MEMBERS

- Arturo Pedroza
- Timothy Greco, MD
- Michael Ritter, MD
- James Karras (*excused*)
- Linda Voss (*excused*)
- Letitia Clark
- Karen Sharp, RN
- Trez Gutierrez, RN
- Lindley Garcia, RN (*excused*)
- Chief Wolfgang Knabe
- Nick Anas, MD (*excused*)
- Rebecca Gomez (*excused*)

#### CATEGORY REPRESENTED

- Board of Supervisors, First District
- Board of Supervisors, Fourth District
- Board of Supervisors, Fifth District
- Ambulance Association of Orange County
- American Red Cross
- City Selection Committee
- Hospital Association of Southern California
- Orange Coast Emergency Nurses Association
- Orange County Business Council
- Orange County Fire Chiefs Association
- Orange County Medical Association
- Orange County Senior Citizens Advisory Council

#### COUNTY OF ORANGE STAFF

- Sam Stratton, MD, MPH
- Tammi McConnell, MSN, RN
- Carl Schultz, MD
- Steve Thronson
- Denise Fennessy
- James Kendrick
- Mike De Laby, MSN, RN
- Adrian Rodriguez
- David Johnson, RN
- Vicki Sweet, RN
- Juan Alvarez
- Maria Nava
- Andrew Roberts
- Cynthia Estrada
- Eileen Endo
- EMS Medical Director
- EMS Administrator
- Associate EMS Medical Director
- Deputy Agency Director, Regulatory/MHS
- Operations Chief, Regulatory/MHS
- Board of Supervisors, Fifth District
- Assistant EMS Administrator
- EMS Performance Chief
- Facilities Coordinator
- ALS Coordinator
- EMS Specialist
- EMS Specialist
- EMS Specialist
- Staff Specialist
- EMS Office Support

### GUESTS PRESENT

#### NAME

- Peter Anderson, MD
- Whitney Ayers
- Greg Boswell, RN
- Ruth Clark, RN
- Josh Dean
- Shawn Gurren
- Greg Heinze
- Kay Kearney
- Tim Korber, MD
- Michael Lekawa, MD
- Chris Leo
- Stephanie Lush, RN

#### REPRESENTATIVES

- Fountain Valley Regional Hospital
- Hospital Association of Southern California
- Orange County Fire Authority
- Orange County Global Medical Center
- Lifeline Ambulance Service
- Lynch Ambulance Service
- Lynch Ambulance Service
- American Professional Ambulance
- Fountain Valley Regional Hospital
- UCI Medical Center
- UCI Medical Center
- UCI Medical Center

#### GUESTS PRESENT

- Nick Mannering, RN
- Kenneth McFarland
- Brittney Oldham
- Maryle Olivier, RN
- Sam Roth
- Peggy Sale
- Humberto Sauri, MD
- Rochelle Silsbee
- Desiree Thomas, RN
- Christine Waddell, RN
- Jacob Wagoner
- Bill Weston

#### REPRESENTATIVES

- Mission Hospital
- Fountain Valley Regional Hospital
- Lynch Ambulance Service
- UCI Medical Center
- Tenet HealthCare
- Fountain Valley Regional Hospital
- Orange County Global Medical Center
- Providence St. Joseph
- Long Beach Memorial Medical Center
- Huntington Beach Hospital
- Lynch Ambulance Service
- Care Ambulance Service, Inc.

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **II. INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Michael Ritter announced the unexpected passing of Nick Anas, MD earlier this week. Dr. Anas was a leader in pediatric critical care at Children’s Hospital of Orange County and established the pediatric intensive care unit (ICU) fellowship between CHOC and Harbor-UCLA. The program has trained a number of fellows in pediatric critical care. He served as the Orange County Medical Association representative and previously had served as the representative for the Third District Supervisor. Dr. Stratton added that a multitude of physician residents and fellows rotated through CHOC’s ICU. Dr. Anas inspired an entire generation of physicians the values of humanity and respect. His passing was a great loss to the EMS System and to the community.

Dr. Stratton presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Fire Chief Wolfgang Knabe, who has served two terms. He thanked Chief Knabe for his valuable input and support of the Orange County EMS System and for the contributions made while serving on the Committee.

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the January 5, 2018 Emergency Medical Care Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

### IV. OCEMS REPORT / CORRESPONDENCE

- **Medical Director's Report:**

– *Dr. Stratton reporting:*

Dr. Stratton has released a memo regarding narcotic shortages due to the closure of a manufacturing plant in Puerto Rico. A full-time air ambulance is now stationed at Children's Hospital of Orange County.

- **Orange County Hospital Diversion Report: January 1 to March 31, 2018:** First quarter diversion hours are presented in the Orange County Hospital Diversion Data Report as seen in Attachment #2.
- **Emergency Ambulance Transportation Contract Performance Report: Fiscal Year 17-18 Mid-Year Report:** Adrian Rodriguez presented the FY 2017-18 Mid-Year Report on the 9-1-1 Emergency Ambulance Transportation contract for the period of July 1 to December 31, 2017 for the contractual response times for each of the five exclusive operating areas (Regions A – E) as seen in attachment #3.
- **EMCC Correspondence:** Attached to the agenda packet is correspondence distributed by Orange County EMS since the last meeting and includes correspondence received by Stephen Wontrobski. Dr. Stratton reported that a memo regarding the inclusion of an autopulse.

### V. EMCC ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE AND ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS

Dr. Stratton presented reports from the Facilities Advisory Subcommittee, County Paramedic Advisory Committee and the Transportation Advisory Subcommittee. The Transportation Advisory Committee has made a recommendation of a 30 minute off-load time maximum 90% of the time.

### VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Ambulance Patient Off-load Time (APOT):** Attached to the agenda packet are ambulance patient off-load time data for each hospital recorded for the period of January 1 to February 28, 2018 (Attachment #5). Currently, Orange County has established its upper limit to be 30 to 35 minutes. Dr. Stratton reported that APOT times will be reviewed when a hospital is under re-designation.
- **Orange County Trauma System Operation: 2018 Report – Public Comments Received:** Attached to the agenda packet are written public comments received from Fountain Valley Regional Hospital, Orange County Global Medical Center, the Mayor, Fire Chief and Chief of Police for the City of Fountain Valley, and UC Irvine Health and are included in Attachment #6.

Dr. Ritter provided an opportunity for members of the public to offer public comments. Speakers were given a time limit of five minutes.

*Rochelle Silsbee, director of public affairs for Providence St. Joseph Hospital System whose Orange County facilities include Mission Hospital, St. Jude Medical Center, St. Joseph Hospital, and Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian. Thanked EMS staff in providing the 2018 Trauma System Report. This report is an important first step in addressing the critical decision in the long-term sustainability of the trauma system. Providence St. Joseph requests clarification of data provide and that an expanded study be performed taking into consideration traffic delays from the 405 freeway expansion; adequate planning for population growth and a comparative analysis of similar trauma systems near Orange County (Ms. Silsbee submitted a copy of the letter to EMS which is an addendum to attachment #6).*

*Humberto Sauri MD, Trauma Medical Director of Orange County Global Medical Center since 2004: Orange County has a great trauma system. It was one of the first early effective trauma systems nationwide and that development continues to be cited at trauma meetings nationwide. There were originally five trauma centers and now there are three. Our system has adjusted to the needs of the County. Dr. Sauri expressed concerns on*

*the need of an additional trauma center and the effects an additional trauma center would have on the entire system. The current trauma centers are verified by the American College of Surgeons and vetted to the highest national standard.*

*Art Pedroza asked if there is an incident similar to the Las Vegas shooting would the current Orange County trauma center be able to care for these types of patients. Dr. Sauri replied that yes the current trauma system would be able to care for these types of patients.*

*Kenneth McFarland, CEO of Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Medical Center: Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Medical Center is seriously reviewing its ability to become a trauma center. The hospital has submitted its concerns and questions on the 2018 Trauma Center Report, expressed in the letters included in today's agenda packet.*

*Michael Lekawa, Chief of Trauma Services at UCI Medical Center, the Trauma Director representative serving on the Facilities Advisory Committee, and Chair of the Regional Trauma Operations Committee: Dr. Lekawa stated that the current trauma system has been giving Orange County optimal care. The current system is stable and an effect on part of the system will negatively impact the entire system. He spoke of the trauma volume, the need for trauma surgeons to maintain their skills, and the future of UCI Medical Center as a training program. He strongly opposes the addition of another trauma center.*

*Art Pedroza asked if there been a growth in volume in the last five years. Dr. Lekawa stated that overall the trauma volume has increased however; the number of critically ill patients has not changed. Mr. Pedroza asked a major earthquake could impact the trauma system and could we lose capacity. Dr. Lekawa stated that Orange County's disaster plan should be able to handle this type of disaster.*

*Desiree Thomas, RN, Trauma Program Director for Memorial Medical Center of Long Beach and Miller's Children Hospital of Long Beach: Spoke of the resources and supplies offered by Memorial Medical Center of Long Beach to Orange County residents and has enjoyed an extended collaboration with Orange County.*

Dr. Stratton reported that the Facilities Advisory Committee requested that OCEMS staff prepare the Trauma System report that was distributed in January. Three hospitals have expressed interest in becoming a trauma center. Dr. Stratton outlined the process an application would undergo ensuring that the facility meets both state and local guidelines. The process is about 18 months before the facility can be verified by the American College of Surgeons.

- **EMCC Slate of Officers:**

Dr. Stratton reported that the nominating committee has recommended Dr. Michael Ritter as Chair and Trez Gutierrez as Vice Chair. Both have agreed to accept those nominations.

**MSC: Recommended that Dr. Michael Ritter serve as Chair and Trez Gutierrez serve as Vice Chair.**

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Orange County EMS Policy/Procedure #310.20: Interfacility Transfer Between Acute Care Hospitals Using EMS Transport Providers**

Dr. Stratton reported this policy was revised to emphasize the many different ways for the transport of patients between acute care hospitals. Vicki Sweet reported that this policy outlines the appropriate use of the types of patients and the differences between call continuation, IFT-ALS, and 9-1-1 re-triage. IFT-ALS paramedics are required to respond within 30 minutes.

### **B. Orange County EMS Policy/Procedure #300.40: OC-MEDS – Confidentiality of Health Care Information**

Dr. Stratton reported that Orange County EMS learned that incidents where personal health information was being discussed by paramedics. A memorandum was distributed to all Orange County fire chiefs who ensured that an incident would not occur. Orange County EMS was able to confirm that the data breach was not from the OC-MEDS system and that the data system is secured. Individuals involved in this incident have been disciplined or terminated by their employers.

**C. Orange County Grand Jury Report**

Dr. Stratton reported that this report is regarding the potential of the City of Irvine pulling out of the Orange County Fire Authority. Should the City pull out of the Fire Authority, Orange County EMS would be able to manage the system.

**D. Emergency Receiving Center/Specialty Receiving Center Designations – David Johnson reported:**

Attached to packet is the Summary Report for the designation of Foothill Regional Medical Center presented to the Facilities Advisory Committee on March 13, 2018. In April 2017, the hospital was given conditional designation for 12 months with conditions. The hospital has met all conditions set and the Facilities Advisory Committee recommended that all conditions be removed and that Foothill Regional Medical Center be designated for the two years remaining on a 3-year designation cycle as indicated in the report.

**MSC:** *The Emergency Medical Care Committee recommends that Orange County EMS the designation of Foothill Regional Medical Center for an additional two years (remainder of a 3-year designation cycle). as indicated in the report.*

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

**VIII. MEMBER COMMENTS**

*Wolfgang Knabe: Thanked Orange County EMS staff for their hard work during his service on EMCC. He stated that he appreciated the work of Orange County's trauma system.*

*Art Pedroza: Thanked Chief Knabe for his service on EMCC.*

*Letitia Clark: Thanked the Chair and Dr. Stratton for taking the time to recognize Dr. Nick Anas. She had known Dr. Anas through her work with the American Academy of Pediatrics. During her tenure with the academy, Dr. Anas was the recipients of the Pediatrician of the Year award.*

**IX. PUBLIC FORUM**

**X. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 13, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.