



EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE



REGULAR MEETING

Friday, April 12, 2019 – 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
- Jeffrey Barke, MD
- Timothy Greco, MD
- Michael Ritter, MD
- James Karras (excused)
- Linda Voss
- Letitia Clark (excused)
- Karen Sharp, RN
- Trez Gutierrez, RN
- Margie Harrier
- Michael Killebrew
- Chief Adam Loeser
- David L. Gibbs, MD
- Rebecca Gomez
- Vacant
- Vacant

CATEGORY REPRESENTED

- Board of Supervisors, First District
- Board of Supervisors, Second 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 City Managers Association
- Orange County Fire Chiefs Association
- Orange County Medical Association
- Orange County Senior Citizens Advisory Council
- Orange County Police Chiefs/Sheriffs Association
- Society of Orange County Emergency Physicians

HEALTH CARE AGENCY STAFF

- Sam Stratton, MD, MPH - EMS Medical Director
- Tammi McConnell, MSN, RN - EMS Administrator
- Steve Thronson - Deputy Agency Director, Regulatory/MHS
- Cheryl Meronk - Chief of Operations, Regulatory/MHS
- Laurent Repass, NRP - EMS Information Systems Chief
- Andrew Roberts - EMS Specialist
- Jonathan Robinson - EMS Intern
- Kirstin Wong - EMS Specialist

GUESTS PRESENT

NAME

REPRESENTING

- Greg Boswell, RN - Orange County Fire Authority
- Ruth Clark, RN - Orange County Global Medical Center
- Janet Hewson, RN - Fountain Valley Regional Hospital
- Tim Korber, MD - Fountain Valley Regional Hospital
- Michael Lekawa, MD - UCI Medical Center
- Chris Leo - UCI Medical Center
- Stephanie Lush, RN - UCI Medical Center

NAME

REPRESENTING

- Amanda Pringle, RN - Mission Hospital
- Rhonda Rosati, RN - Brea/Fullerton Fire Departments
- Rochelle Silsbee - Providence St. Joseph
- Aaron Sundstrom - Doctor's Ambulance Service
- Jacob Wagoner - Lynch Ambulance Service
- Bill Weston - Care Ambulance Service

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Introduction of new members:** Dr. Ritter introduced three new members appointed by the Orange County Board of Supervisors.
 - Jeffrey Barke, MD, a family physician who practices in Newport Beach. Dr. Barke serves as the representative for the Second District.
 - David Gibbs, MD, trauma medical director for Children's Hospital of Orange County. Dr. Gibbs serves as the representative for the Orange County Medical Association (General Member).
 - Chief Adam Loeser, Fire Chief for Brea/Fullerton Fire Departments. Chief Loeser serves as the representative for the Orange County Fire Chiefs Association.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the January 18, 2019 Emergency Medical Care Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

(Motion: A. Pedroza; Seconded: K. Sharp)

IV. OCEMS REPORT / CORRESPONDENCE

• **Medical Director's Report:**

– *Dr. Schultz reporting:*

High Risk Ambulance: Orange County EMS is in the process of finalizing plans to have a high risk ambulance made available for use for the transport of patients during a highly communicable infectious disease outbreak (i.e., SARS, Ebola, etc.) to centers of excellence. This ambulance is one of three stationed in an adjoining county.

John Wayne Airport Exercise: The exercise scenario was to treat patients with a highly communicable infectious disease outbreak. While the exercise was successful, it led to the need to have a high risk ambulance made available.

Hepatitis A Outbreak: While there continues to be a minor Hepatitis A outbreak in the United States, paramedics are reminded to use their PPE as a precaution.

Health Care Coalition of Orange County: This group brings together various components of the health care system, such as hospitals, clinics, skilled nursing facilities, and dialysis centers, to improve coordination and communication in emergency preparedness planning.

- **Orange County Hospital Diversion Report: January 1 to March 31, 2019:** Dr. Schultz provided a report on Orange County Hospital Diversion Data as seen in Attachment #2. Higher diversion rates have been seen in the last two months are due to higher acuity rates that are not flu related.
- **Ambulance Patient Off-load Times (APOT) Report:** Dr. Schultz provided a report on the Ambulance Patient Off-load times as seen in Attachment #3. He provided a definition of APOT to new members.
- **Emergency Ambulance Transportation Contract Performance Report: Fiscal Year 18-19 Mid-Year Report:** Andrew Roberts presented the FY 2018-19 Mid-Year Report on the 9-1-1 Emergency Ambulance Transportation contract for the period of July 1 to December 31, 2018. This report contains the contractual response times for each of the five exclusive operating areas (Regions A – E) as seen in attachment #4.
- **EMCC Correspondence:** Dr. Schultz provided background information regarding the correspondence included in the agenda packet. Correspondence including memorandums on the authorization of the Comprehensive Children's Emergency Receiving Center Pilot Project; recent clarification of existing policies; as well as a letter received from Stephen Wontrobski regarding the settlement between the City of Irvine and the Orange County Fire Authority.

V. EMCC ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE AND ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS

Dr. Schultz reported on items discussed at the Facilities Advisory, County Paramedic Advisory and Transportation Advisory Committees. Among the discussions that had taken place was establishment of the Health Care Coalition; the State may require establishment of transfer agreements between trauma and non-trauma hospitals; humeral intraosseous lines; the use of Zofran in pregnant women; and the use of ambulance units for the transport of law enforcement canines who are accompanied by their handler to a veterinary hospital provided that the unit is not required for human patient transportation.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **American College of Surgeons Trauma System Survey:** The contract between the County of Orange and the American College of Surgeons (ACS) has been signed with the visit to take place the week of July 15 to 18, 2019. The ACS is not expected to visit the individual hospitals but review the entire EMS system in regards to trauma services. The review is also expected to include reviewing public health services; the Sheriff-Coroner's office; etc. Facilities may be asked for information that will be included in a pre-review questionnaire that must be submitted to the American College of Surgeons prior to the survey. Information requests will be sent to both hospital administration and the emergency department of the facility.

- **Comprehensive Children’s Emergency Receiving Center (CCERC) Pilot Update:** Dr. Schultz provided a report on this pilot which began on February 4, 2019 where field paramedics may request to speak with a base hospital MICN at either Children’s Hospital of Orange County or at Mission Hospital for the care of pediatric patients. The pilot is doing well and Orange County EMS is gathering data on all pediatric patients meeting criteria.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Maximum Emergency Ground Ambulance Rates Effective July 1, 2019

Tammi McConnell provided background information on the current ambulance rates and the methodology that was approved in 2017. Currently, the Board approved methodology is to use the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County “all items” Consumer Price Index (CPI) tables. However, shortly after the rates were approved, the US Department of Labor Statistics revised its tables with the deletion of the “Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County” table. As a result, Health Care Agency staff will ask the Board of Supervisors to approve a revision to the methodology to allow for the use of the “Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim” CPI tables in calculating the rate increase for mileage, oxygen, standby, and expendable supplies. This does not affect the current methodology approved to calculate the Emergency Base Rate which is based on the increase in minimum wage.

MSC: *The Emergency Medical Care Committee supports the Health Care Agency’s proposed change in methodology using the Consumer Price Index “Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim” series to adjust the rates on an annual basis for mileage, oxygen, standby, and expendable medical supplies.*

B. EMCC 2019 Slate of Officers

A conference call with the nomination committee was held and after discussion recommended that Dr. Michael Ritter to serve as Chair and Trez Gutierrez to serve as Vice Chair.

MSC: *The Emergency Medical Care Committee appointed Michael Ritter, MD to serve as Chair and Trez Gutierrez, to serve as Vice Chair.*

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

VIII. MEMBER COMMENTS

Rebecca Gomez: She stated that she appreciated the community participation provided by local ambulance companies and thanked them for their participation. She also asked how a group would go about making a request. Mr. Killebrew indicated that they would submit a request to their local ambulance service provider.

IX. PUBLIC FORUM

X. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 12, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.