



EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE



REGULAR MEETING

Friday, October 8, 2021 – 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	Carl H. Schultz, MD	– EMS Medical Director
Lawrence A. Grihalva	– Board of Supervisors-Second District	Gagandeep Grewal, MD	– Associate EMS Medical Director
Timothy Munzing, MD	– Board of Supervisors-Third District	Rommel Navarro, PharmD	– Chief Pharmacist
Luis Estevez	– Board of Supervisors-Fourth District	Laurent Repass, NREMT-P	– EMS Information Systems Chief
Ted Heyming, MD (excused)	– Board of Supervisors-Fifth District	Adrian Rodriguez	– EMS Performance Chief
Robert Viera	– Ambulance Assn. of Orange County	Danielle Ogaz	– EMS Systems & Standards Chief
Rebecca Gomez	– City Selection Committee	Kevin Chao	– EMS Disaster Chief, HPP Operations
Chief Adam Loeser	– Orange County Fire Chiefs Assn.	Jingle Doan	– HCA Administrative & Medical Health Services
David Gibbs, MD (excused)	– Orange County Medical Assn.	Joanna Huang	– HCA Program Support Analyst
Michael Killebrew	– Orange County City Managers Assn.	David Johnson, RN	– Facilities Coordinator
Chief Stu Greenberg	– Orange County Police Chiefs & Sheriffs Assn.	Laura Wallin, RN	– ALS/CQI Coordinator
		Jason Azuma, NREMT-P	– OC-MEDS Coordinator
		James Gee, PharmD	– Pharmacist
		Andrew Roberts	– EMS Specialist
		Rommel Navarro	– Health Care Agency Pharmacist
		Eileen Endo	– Office Specialist
		Lisa Wilson	– Information Processing Technician
<u>GUESTS PRESENT</u>			
Jordan Abushawish	– Providence St. Joseph	Vanessa Hayflich	– Mercy Air Service, Inc.
Julia Afrasiabi, RN	– UCI Medical Center	Walt Lynch	– Lynch Ambulance Service
Colette Baeza, RN	– UCI Medical Center	Julie Mackie, RN	– Hospital Association of Southern California
Dave Barry	– Anaheim Fire and Rescue	Holly Maher	– Huntington Beach Hospital
Drew Bernard	– Emergency Ambulance Service	Nicole Plouffe	– Lynch Ambulance Service
Mary Birkle, RN	– Mission Hospital	Teressa Polinski, RN	– UCI Medical Center
Ruth Clark, RN	– Orange County Global Medical Center	Sharon Richards	– Hospital Association of Southern California
Jon Cline, MD	– Mission Hospital	Karen Sharp, RN	– Saddleback Memorial Medical Center
Todd Costa	– Orange County Fire Authority	Cyndie Strader, RN	– Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian
Ryan Creager	– Mercy Air Service, Inc.	Bill Sullivan	– Orange County Fire Authority
Laura Cross, RN	– Mission Hospital	Mark Taub, MD	– Saddleback Memorial Medical Center
Phil Davis	– Emergency Ambulance Service	Christine Waddell, RN	– Huntington Beach Hospital
Chad Druten	– Emergency Ambulance Service	Jacob Wagoner	– Lynch Ambulance Service
Jesus Gaona	– Board of Supervisors, Fourth District	Kim Zaky, RN	– Children’s Hospital of Orange County

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the July 9, 2021, meeting were approved as submitted.

IV. OCEMS REPORT

- **Medical Director’s Report**

Dr. Schultz reported that Orange County EMS changed the manner in which policies and procedures were to become effective on October 1, 2021. The new implementation date for all pending policies and procedures is April 1, 2022.

This extension is primarily due to the large number of policies and procedures; the pandemic; the additional time needed to train personnel; and the need to make software changes to allow for the documentation of individuals who do not meet the definition of a “patient”. Dr. Schultz also reported that he is in discussion with the parties involved in managing the recent oil spill in Huntington Beach to determine the type of personal protective equipment needed for service providers when called to care for a patient who is affected by the oil spill. Dr. Ritter asked when base hospital physicians may resume doing ride-alongs as required to maintain their status as a base hospital physician.

- **Health Emergency Management Report**

Dr. Grewal presented the Health Emergency Management Report which included the impact of the third surge since the start of the pandemic. He shared the data seen during this recent surge with things slowly improving, support of the mobile PODS, the availability of equipment and supplies for stakeholders, etc. The Health Care Coalition is beginning to resume their meetings. Currently, the Health Care Agency’s Operation Center is currently operating at a Level 2 alert.

- **Hospital Diversion Report (January 1 to September 30, 2021)**

Attached to the agenda is the Hospital Diversion Report for the period of January 1 to September 30, 2021. David Johnson reported that diversion data also may be viewed on the Medical Health Operational Area Dashboard which is updated daily. Mr. Johnson reported on the significant spikes that were seen during the summer. While the COVID population is beginning to decline, hospitals are struggling with being able to staff hospital beds. Anaheim Global Medical Center is no longer a cardiovascular receiving center. He reported that with the exception of UCI Medical Center, all trauma centers have undergone ACS verification this year. UCI Medical Center will undergo their verification in spring of 2022.

- **Ambulance Patient Off-Load Time (APOT) Report**

Attached to the agenda is the Ambulance Patient Off-Load Time (APOT) Report for the period of July 1 to August 31, 2021. Laurent Repass presented the data for the months of July and August including the heaviest number of transports since data have been reported. The September APOT data report has now been posted to the OCEMS website. For the months of January through July 2021, there was a software error noted and the data have been corrected. This software error did not cause any significant changes. September’s 90th percentile was at 31 minutes.

- **EMCC Correspondence**

Attached to the agenda is a report on the City of Placentia’s first year report since the inception of their Fire and Life Safety program. Due to the size of the document, EMS was unable to send electronically. The document may be downloaded from the OCEMS website.

V. EMCC ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE AND ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS

- **Facilities Advisory Committee (September, 2021 meeting)**

Dr. Schultz reported Committee members discussed and reviewed memorandums regarding ambulances wait time at hospitals. In addition, they discussed the triage guidelines for hanging victims and those patients who suffer injuries involving electric motorized vehicles; and the development of CQI policies for stroke and STEMI centers.

- **County Paramedic Advisory Committee (September, 2021 meeting)**

Dr. Schultz reported that this Committee discussed hospital diversion, the triage guidelines for hanging victims and those patients who suffer injuries involving electric motorized vehicles going 20 miles per hour; the waiver of EMT skills verification until December 31, 2021; and the extension for an EMT or paramedic to administer vaccinations.

- **Transportation Advisory Committee (October 6, 2021)**

Robert Viera reported that committee members discussed ambulance inspections, and the fee study to be discussed under new business.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None presented.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

• **Emergency Medical Services Fee Study**

Dr. Schultz gave a brief background on the purpose of the proposed increase in fees. Jingle Doan, a financial services manager who is responsible for assisting a program's fee study, gave a presentation on the methodology used; addressed the Board directive and the County's mandate to have full cost recovery for increased operational costs with a multi-year study. Ms. Doan reported there are two fees that will remain the same. Dr. Schultz reported that EMS is asking EMCC members to make a recommendation to forward the fee study to the Board for review and approve the methodology used. Robert Viera expressed concerns regarding the fees charged to EMTs who work for ambulance service providers. One of the questions asked was "does the methodology explore any other options for reduce the costs for EMTs?" Committee members asked for a breakdown on how the costs for the hospital fees were determined. In reviewing what other counties charge, there will be less services provided without the ability to charge reasonable fees to the hospitals. Currently, hospitals do not pay fees for the services received. Dr. Schultz reported that without additional staffing we would not have the capacity to make the determination of what improvements need to be made.

The Emergency Medical Care Committee recommended approval of the methodology used by the fee study and ask that the Orange County Board of Supervisors make the determination for the fees to be charged to the various service providers.

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

Mr. Johnson reported that the various entities, such as the American College of Surgeons and Joint Commission, delayed their in-person verification processes, Orange County extended the expiration dates before resuming Orange County's review process. All of the processes for reviewing the designation documentation has been conducted online. Many of the conditions is for hospitals to submit a corrective action plan for reviewing discharge data.

The Emergency Medical Care Committee recommended that the Orange County EMS Medical Director approve the redesignations as indicated in the report provided by the Facilities Advisory Committee.

VIII. MEMBER COMMENTS

Rebecca Gomez asked about the staffing shortages that are occurring. Karen Sharp reported that a number of nurses are leaving the profession, becoming travelling nurses, and some attrition.

IX. PUBLIC FORUM

No public comments from members were received.

X. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 14, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. Due to the current pandemic, the meeting may be held via Zoom videoconferencing. A copy of the 2022 meeting dates (see Attachment #7) is provided.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.