



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 6, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

Held via Zoom Videoconferencing

MINUTES

MEMBERS			
NAME	CATEGORY REPRESENTED	ORANGE COUNTY EMS STAFF	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Viera, Chair	– Ambulance Association of Orange County	Carl Schultz, MD	– EMS Medical Director
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Waddell, RN	– Base Hospital Coordinators	Gagandeep Grewal, MD	– Associate EMS Medical Director
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jacob Wagener	– Ambulance Service Provider non-9-1-1	Laurent Repass, NRP	– EMS Information Systems Chief
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Titus Ynares, RN	– Orange County Nursing Leadership	Adrian Rodriguez	– EMS Performance Chief
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chad Druten	– Ambulance Service Provider 9-1-1	Meng Chung	– BLS Coordinator
<input type="checkbox"/> Vanessa Hayflich	– Air Transport Provider	Eileen Endo	– Office Specialist
<input type="checkbox"/> Bryan Johnson, RN	– Fire Service Provider (with transport)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rhonda Rosati, RN	– Fire Service Provider (non- transport)		

GUESTS PRESENT			
NAME	REPRESENTING	NAME	REPRESENTING
Drew Bernard	– Emergency Ambulance Service	Patrick Powers	– City of Placentia
Ruth Clark, RN	– Orange County Global Medical Center	Kristin Thompson, RN	– Newport Beach Fire Department
Andrew Hill	– Laguna Beach Fire Department	Bill Weston	– Emergency Ambulance Service
Eric Lether	– Laguna Beach Fire Department		

The attendance list is incomplete. Please email eeendo@ochca.com if you attended TAC on 4/6/22 to have your name updated. Thank you.

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am by the Chair, Robert Viera.

II. **INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Rob Viera introduced Scott White as the new General Manager at Falck/Care Ambulance.
- Rob Viera is currently a special advisor at AAOC and this committee. He is interested in finding a new chair for this committee.

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from January 5, 2022, were approved.

IV. **OCEMS REPORT** by Meng Chung

- **OCEMS Report:** The EMT Skills verification that was previously extended is now extended until June 2022. Last October a memo was sent regarding Policy and Procedures and Standing Orders effective April 1st, except for policy 300.30, which has a 6-month extension. The EMS Authority Stroke & STEMI conference is on June 27, 2022. The registration is not open yet. Save the date.

Dr. Gagandeep Grewal mentioned that COVID case rates are decreasing. The numbers are flattening out. Hospital admission has decreased. Last week there was some increase with 2 variants. There is an up-tik with FLU. AOC is open and supporting vaccination PODs. Test kits are still available. The AOC still has a supply of BINEX. Prior report restrictions are now available for professional use kits. They can be used for student testing and healthcare workers. Some other supplies are available. The state is offering testing kits.

- **April 1st Policy Updates** by Dr. Carl Schultz. Several policies are now live, and you can use them now. Two policies need feedback from this group. Policy 305.05 regarding BHC QA/QI system needed to run through representatives of Fire. The suggested to adjust language in policy. There was a question on vaccine policy. The State stepped back, saying that we are not in an emergency anymore, so the liberties of what EMTs can do to give vaccine has changed. EMTs are no longer allowed to give vaccine. Paramedics can still give vaccine in public health. The EMT part impacts us.
- **2022 Ambulance Count:** There were 379 vehicles were permitted in the county. Now there are 395 permitted vehicles. Ambulance numbers count is updated monthly. The report is found on the EMS website.
- **New Ambulance Providers:** There are two new ambulance providers. Nurses ambulance has 2 permitted vehicles. Horizon also has 2 permitted vehicles.
- **Ambulance Patient Off-Load Time (APOT) Report:** by Laurent Repass. Attachment #2 shows the APOT has returned to normal trend. February was down 30 minutes and 7 seconds. The MHOAC reports are sent out on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- **Bi-Directional Data Exchange:** by Laurent Repass. Patient Care Report data will immediately be available to ER Doctors. The hospital data entered will be returned to the EMS provider. EMS began working with hospitals in January. Also worked with the Board of Supervisors to get contracts approved for hospitals. Laurent Repass is the project manager. Jason Azuma and Dr. Gagandeep Grewal are assisting with this project.

V. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - none

VI. **NEW BUSINESS** –

- **OCEMS 2023 Ambulance Inspections** - Meng Chung will meet in July. Ambulance companies should have received a renewal letter for inspections. If any providers want to pay by check, they can, but the process takes more time. We can work through it. We had some difficulties renewing vehicles that are expiring towards the end of the year.
- **Orange County EMS Policy/Procedure #310.96 (Review & Comment)** by Dr. Schultz (Attachment #3) We have emergency operations from this office put in place by several letters. APOT times, whether this pandemic goes away or not, there will still be scrutiny from the State. The bottom of pages 4 to 6 is the new language being incorporated in policy. It was run by the EMS advisory group. Last page minute – clarify after arriving at hospital current policy is not added.

Rob Viera thanked Dr. Schultz and EMS for putting measures in place and fully supports the document as is.

Dr. Schultz 300.00 policies are medical direction policies that usually do not go out to the general public. Given this was formally released to this committee, we wanted to provide opportunity for feedback.

Ambulance Rate Increase Effective July 1, 2022 (Attachment #4)

AAOC Rate Increase Presentation by Bill Weston of AAOC (Attachment #5)

Kirstin Thompson from NBFDF commented on the BLS rate is \$1,500, not \$2,600 as listed. The Fire Department only charges a transport or no transport fee.

Eric Lether from Laguna Beach Fire Department stated their numbers differ from those posted on the slid.

Jim Karras asked if there will be a recommendation from EMCC for transport rates. It has been a challenging two years. State level ambulance providers are struggling with fees, adjusting price to meet salary. Jim is asking for this committee to support rates as presented and to bring forth to EMCC. Jim asked if this is something we can get to EMCC for Friday. Eileen Endo replied that this is already scheduled on the EMCC agenda along with attachment #4. The planned increase effective July 1, 2022 is the final increase to the emergency base rate using the minimum wage increase as directed by the Board of Supervisors.

VII. **OTHER BUSINESS** - none

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM - none

IX. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 6, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. most likely on Zoom.

X. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:53am.