



EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE



REGULAR MEETING

Friday, January 13, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

Location: Via Zoom

M I N U T E S

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Health Care Agency Staff</u>	
	–	Clayton Chau, MD, Ph.D.	– Director Health Care Agency
	–	Mindy Winterswyk	– Assist. Dir., Health Care Agency
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael S. Ritter, MD	– Orange County Medical Assn. (SOCEP)	Chi Rajalingham	– Assist. Dir., Health Care Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Arturo Pedroza-excused	– Board of Supervisors, First District	Carl Schultz, MD	– EMS Medical Director,
<input type="checkbox"/> Larry Grihalva, MICP	– Board of Supervisors, Second District	Gagandeep Grewal, MD	– Associate EMS Medical Director
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timothy Munzing, MD	– Board of Supervisors, Third District	Tammi McConnell, MSN, RN	– Director, EMS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Luis Estevez	– Board of Supervisors, Fourth District	Rommel Navarro, Pharm.D.	– Chief Pharmacist
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ted Heyming, MD	– Board of Supervisors, Fifth District	Laurent Repass, NRP	– EMS Information Systems Chief
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	– Ambulance Association of Orange County	Genise Silva, RN	– EMS Facilities Coordinator
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rebecca Firey	– American Red Cross	David Johnson, RN	– EMS Nurse Consultant
<input type="checkbox"/> Anthony Kuo	– City Selection Committee	Jason Azuma, NRP	– OC-MEDS Coordinator
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Killebrew	– Orange County City Managers Association	Maria Nava	– EMS Specialist
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chief Adam Loeser	– Orange County Fire Chief Association	Denamarie Baker	– Sr. Emergency Management Coord.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Gibbs, MD	– Orange County Medical Association	Eddie Morales	– Sr. Emergency Management Coord.
<input type="checkbox"/> Chief Stu Greenberg	– Orange County Police Chiefs’ & Sheriffs Assn.	Mike Chiles	– Program Supervisor II
		Chad Cossey	– Program Supervisor II
		Justin Newton	– Program Supervisor II
		Erica Moojen	– EMS Office Supervisor
		Eileen Endo	– Office Specialist
		Lisa Wilson	– Information Processing Technician
GUESTS PRESENT			
Julia Afrasiabi, RN	– UCI Medical Center	Vishal Raj	– Falck Mobile Health Corp.
Colette Baeza, RN	– UCI Medical Center	Rhonda Rosati, RN	– Fullerton Fire Department
Dave Barry	– Anaheim Fire Department	Anabella Anderson, RN	– Mission Hospital
Claus Hecht, MD	– Orange County Fire Authority	Ruth Clark, RN	– Orange County Global Med. Ctr.
Laura Cross, RN	– Mission Hospital	Autumn Kariuki	– Anaheim Regional Medical Center
Nicholas Berkuta	– City of San Clemente	Cyndie Strader	– Hoag Memorial Hospital
Jill Patt, RN	– Huntington Beach Hospital	Andrew Hill	--Laguna Beach Fire Dept.
John Maier, RN	– Garden Grove Hospital	Jacob Wagoner	– Lynch Ambulance Service
Whitney Ayers	--Hospital Association of Southern California	Bryan Johnson, RN	– Orange City Fire Dept.
Jeff Lopez	– Huntington Beach Fire Department	Heidi Yttri, RN	– St. Jude Medical Center
Meghann Ord, RN	– Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian	Kim Zaky, RN	– CHOC Children’s Hospital
George Avery, Fire Chief	--Brea Fire Department	Sheryl Gradney, RN	--Los Angeles County Fire Dept.
Josh Dean	--Premier Ambulance Service	Deanna	–
Vanessa Hayflich	--Mercy Air		

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

It was suggested to have the person presenting listed on the agenda. It was agreed to have the person presenting listed in different sections in the topic header to make things easier.

2. INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Carl Schultz introduced three new EMS Staff Members.

Philip Grieve, EMT-P - EMS ALS Coordinator

Genise Silva, RN – EMS Facilities Coordinator

Mike Noone, EMT-P – Assistant EMS Administrator

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the October 14, 2022, meeting were approved.

4. OCEMS REPORT

- **Medical Director's Report by Carl Schultz, MD**

APOT & Diversion hours

Ebola is no more. No new reported infections in 48 days, which doubles incubation period of 21 days. Emergency Departments do not have to screen for patients coming in asking if they have been abroad.

- **Health Emergency Management Report**

Dr. Grewal reported that COVID-19 infection rates declining 13 cases per 100,000. Peak was 18. Other surges were worse with some having peaks as low as 23 and others with peaks as high as 200s. Rate was about 4 when the surge started. Now it is a relatively minor surge. It is holding steady so far. It is difficult to know if the numbers may go up again. One variant swaps out for another variant and we may see increase in cases. Still, vaccine has efficacy even for these newer variants. Influenza wave decreasing from high to moderate. RSV, Enterovirus and Rhinovirus significantly decreased. MPox is not an issue with only sporadic cases (even though baseline is zero cases as the virus should not be endemic). The AOC was activated for respiratory surge and deactivated at the end of December. Hospitals handled it well and did not need too much support. Vaccination POD support ended in December. Now vaccines are given in local clinics. AOC is ready to give support as needed for weather related issues in terms of flooding. Statewide agencies are activated.

The warehouse has excess gowns and face shields. Need to reorganize space. As a one-time thing, ready to distribute some of the surplus. Reach out if supplies are needed. Test kits, OTC kits expire in April. CDPH will soon stop sending tests. OTC Kits are reserved for underserved people with poor access to testing. Getting plans up to date. Recent radiation exercise for HCCOC. Pediatric exercise towards end of fiscal year.

Dr. Ritter asked about the status of Tamiflu. Dr. Grewal replied that the expiration date of Tamiflu has been extended. CHOC reached out earlier, none since.

Chief Adam Loeser asked to let Fire know if any drills where the fire department is needed to participate. EMS Advisory Group (as part of HCCOC) meets quarterly and the hope is that fire departments participate.

Chad Cossey mentioned the state has announced state wide medical health exercise will have components of chemical, active shooter, burn and pediatrics. A tactical exercise drill is coming up.

- **Ambulance Patient Off-Load Time (APOT) Report and Diversion Report: December 2022**

Laurent Repass reported on the last 3 months of APOT. December had 37 minutes 40 seconds. Eighteen to Nineteen hospitals had over thirty minute APOT times. December was the busiest month ever recorded. It had the highest numbers since EMS has been counting them. Laurent plans to add 12-hour gauges that will be available during the next couple of weeks. The gauges will show more immediate real times rather than 24 hours where impacted 18 hours ago. Represent real time with what is happening with individual hospitals.

Dr. Schultz mentioned this is being developed to reduce wall time.

- **Bi-Directional Exchange Project by Laurent Repass**

The Bi-Directional Data Exchange is a grant-funded project by the CDC. EMS providers' pre-hospital care reports and receiving hospital electronic health records. Once patient is admitted discharge data is sent back to paramedic ambulance company. Once the paramedic posts the electronic care record then it gets transferred to the receiving hospital. Once patient is admitted, the outcome data discharged information is sent back to paramedics or group responders as well as EMS agency for quality assurance and CQI purposes among other things. Working with various hospitals in discussion on various and technical implementation. We have signed contracts with 75% of our hospitals right now. Working actively with UCI, CHOC, Providence, Prime Health Care and several others. The hospital we are most advances with at this point is UCI. We have completed a connection with them and are working on testing the Bi-Directional Exchange. We are making progress; sent test to UCI yesterday and were notified today that UCI received it. The deadline for this project is end of fiscal year. Laurent will continue to provide updates to this project for the next half of the year of more.

- **EMCC Correspondence by Tammi McConnell**

Two bits of information on EMCC correspondence. Anything that is sent to EMCC becomes an agenda item and gets loaded into EMCC correspondence.
Notification from Dr. Ritter back in October when committee discussed ambulance rates correspondence.
Memo from Dr. Schultz on November 3 regarding emergent crisis regarding RSV. It has gotten better, but is not 100% resolved.
Change in chair advisory. The Transportation Advisory Subcommittee (TAC) Chair resigned and moved on. Dr. Ritter approved change in TAC Chair.

V. **EMCC ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE AND ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS** by Carl Schultz

- **Facilities Advisory Committee (January 10, 2023) by Carl Schultz**

Facilities Advisory Committee met on January 10 with the same topics discussed that were mentioned today, including redesignations. The next Facilities Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2023.

- **County Prehospital Advisory Committee (January 11, 2023) by Ted Heyming**

This Committee discussed the same topics as today with anaphylaxis. The next CPAC meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2023.

- **Transportation Advisory Committee (January 5, 2023) by Carl Schultz**

Transportation Advisory Committee met on January 5. TAC had a smaller agenda and discussed ambulance rates. The next TAC meeting is scheduled for April 5, 2023.

VI. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** by Tammi McConnell

Informational Item Only:

#4520 Ground Ambulance Rates Memo, Policy #714 & BOS resolution.

VII. **NEW BUSINESS**

Informational Items Only

- **Refresher Memo EMS Interventions (#4477) by Carl Schultz**

Dr. Schultz does not want patient to be stuck in the middle if 911 is called.

- **NEMESIS v3.5 Implementation Plan 01.03.2023 (Letter #4522) by Laurent Repass**

All providers must transition by 12/18/23. State only accepts v3.5 standardized data by January 2024. EMS cannot send data to state without the update. Image Trend is a compliant vendor. We meet with them next week to work out the details.

- **Calling 911 for ICU transfers By Carl Schultz**

If 911 is called then make sure to make base hospital contact and let EMS know, so we can deal with it. In some circumstances, failure to have 911 go out there to transfer patient might cause death. It is not appropriate for ICU-to-ICU transfer, but an exception can be made for one or two times a year.

Chief Adam Loeser mentioned that this puts medics in a tight spot to transfer from ICU to a lower level of care. Appreciates response trying to make calls better on the front end.

- **Refusing patient from the field/requiring Base Hospital Contact**

Trying to make receiving center facilities aware of this. Make base hospital contact when refusing patients from the field. EMS wants to know when this is occurring. It has been going on and Dr. Schultz needs to address it. He does not think this is an ongoing problem.

- **Facility Re-designation update by David Johnson**

Facility re-designation update at Facilities meeting. October redesignations had a number of facilities that had

additional approvals pending. Some facilities have EMS accepted improvement conditions. From some we have not received corrective action plans, yet. Will follow-up on that.

Action Item:

- ALS Paramedic Unit Changes – Orange County Fire Authority
(Recommended Action: OCEMS policy 911 provider makes changes has to be presented to EMCC. 911 providers make changes in real time. No issues related to this, but it is part of recommendation for EMCC approval.
Vote: Adam Loeser accepts. No opposition. Mike Ritter adding Paramedic coverage.
- Facility Re-Designation
(Recommended Action: Approve designation of Hoag Irvine Medical Center)
Approved by Ted Heyming, second with no opposition.
- Temporary Upgrade of a Paramedic Assessment Engine (Newport Beach Fire)
(Recommended action: Approval of temporary implement of PAU through February 28, 2023)
Life of apparatus ladder truck is 15-20 years of life service. Whether it runs 1,000 or 4,000 calls a year. Better service level for paramedics for cardiac arrest patients.
Approved by Ted Heyming, second with no opposition
- Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting Date Changes
(Recommended action: Approval of meeting date change for Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)
Bylaws needs to go to EMCC for approval. TAC meets the third week of month. There is a 3-month gap then EMCC meets and there is no new information. Change TAC meeting date to first week of month so information is fresh for EMCC meeting date.
David Gibbs approves, Adam Loeser seconds. No opposition.

VIII. MEMBER COMMENTS

Dr. Ritter commented about when Damar collapsed. It was a good effort and great response for cardiac arrest. It shows that defibrillation made a difference. Shining moments.

IX. PUBLIC FORUM

None made.

X. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 14, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. (location to be determined) If Covid does not change radically, we will see if we can get together in person.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52am.