



COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY  
 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
 405 W. Fifth Street, Suite  
 301A Santa Ana, CA 92701



**FACILITIES ADVISORY  
 COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, March 7, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE**

**MEMBERS**

- Peter Anderson, MD
- Vacant
- Michael Lekawa, MD
- Chien Sun, MD, MD
- Alaine Schauer, RN
- Vacant
- Meghann Ord, RN
- Titus Ynares, RN
- Mary Slattery, RN
- Bryan Johnson, RN

**REPRESENTING**

- OCMA/ED Physician
- Base Hospital Physician Directors
- Trauma Medical Directors
- Managed Health Care Physicians
- Base Hospital Administrators
- ERC Hospital Administrators
- Base Hospital Coordinators
- OC ED Nursing Leadership
- Trauma Program Coordinators
- Fire Chiefs EMS Committee

**OCEMS STAFF PRESENT**

- Carl Schultz, MD
- Gagandeep Grewal, MD
- Tammi McConnell, MSN
- Mike Noone, NRP
- David Johnson, RN
- Genise Silva, RN
- Philip Grieve
- Jason Azuma, EMT-P
- Drew Bernard, EMT
- Juan Alvarez, EMT
- Erica Moojen
- Eileen Endo
- Lisa Wilson

- EMS Medical Director
- Associate EMS Medical Director
- EMS Director
- Assistant EMS Director
- EMS Facilities Coordinator
- EMS Facilities Coordinator
- EMS ALS/CQI Coordinator
- OC-MEDS Coordinator
- EMS Specialist
- EMS Specialist
- EMS Office Supervisor
- EMS Office Specialist
- EMS IPT

**GUESTS PRESENT**

**NAME**

- Kristen Karpow, RN
- Jillian Patt, RN
- Carlos Rosales
- Julie Mackie, RN
- Julia Afrasiabi, RN
- Nicole Miller, RN
- Ruth Clark, RN

**REPRESENTING**

- Orange County Global Medical Center
- Huntington Beach Hospital
- Foothill Regional Medical Center
- Mission Hospital
- UCI Medical Center
- Mission Hospital
- Orange County Global Medical Center

**NAME**

- Laura Cross
- Whitney Ayres
- Julie Larson, RN
- Mildred Curaton, RN
- Kim Zaky, RN
- Todd Costa

**REPRESENTING**

- Mission Hospital
- Hospital Association of Southern California
- Saddleback Memorial Hospital
- Foothill Regional Medical Center
- Children's Hospital of Orange County
- Orange County Fire Authority

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

- Meeting called to order by Peter Anderson, Chair.

**II. INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Carl Shultz introduced two new EMS Employees, Mike Noone, Assistant EMS Director and Genise Silva, EMS Facilities Coordinator.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Approved Minutes from January 10, 2023, meeting.

**IV. OCEMS REPORT**

- OCEMS Report:

Carl Schultz – Two items I have to present. First, we at OCEMS are transitioning to one set of policies/procedures/standing orders for all paramedics. Previously we had one set for IFT-ALS medics and one set for 911 medics. In October of 2022, OCEMS put forth a single set for all paramedics. This approach was voluntary initially, but as of April 1, this will become the standard and the old sets will disappear from the website. This also means IFT-ALS paramedics will be required to make BHC just like the 911 paramedics do now. Second, OCEMS will be releasing the next set of policy/procedure/standing order updates just before the beginning of next month. This is our typical pattern of releasing updates on the first of April and October. Only 2 of these updates will have an impact on day-to-day care, and these are the standing orders that deal with anaphylaxis for children and adults.

Gagandeep Grewal – Case rates of COVID 19 are steady and have come down in the last month. Hospitalizations are steady, but not decreasing. Not concerned with Ebola, Monkey Pox and no longer talking about influenza.  
AOC Operations still have PPE available. Supplies, gowns, face shields & new ventilators to offload. Still have test kit allocation.  
Health Emergency Management section is working on hospital coalitions, bylaws, and preparedness plans. Statewide medical health exercise planning is starting next week. Exercise will be on November 16, 2023, including multi facets of burn & chemical.  
SWRTCC is coming up June 27-28.  
EMSA STEMI & Stroke Summits will be virtual.  
EMSAAC Conference May 30-June 1 with CME/CE.

- Specialty Centers (CCERC, SNRC, CVRC, Trauma):  
No new updates. Website sub-group will wrap up project.

Kristen Karpow - Jennifer Gonzales, Director from OC Global Medical Center Trauma Services, resigned. Nicole Ogden promoted to Trauma Manager. There is also a CT vacancy.

- Ambulance Patient Off-Load Times (APOT):  
Jason Azuma - APOT in January was busy with APOT around 37 minutes. High volume is trending higher over last 6 months. The February APOT report is not yet published. APOT was higher than 36 minutes. Transport down 14,500. February is a short month. More transports in February than seen in January. Transport is much higher than normal. Diversion 1,800 hours diversion system wide. Tracking February around 1,500.

Carl Schultz – Regarding diversion hours, had significant elevation of hours by some hospitals over the summer months. Sometimes going as high as 400 hours for the month, but consistently over 250 hours in a month. As this became a pattern, meant significant number of hospitals were on extensive diversion and were shifting their patient care responsibilities to other hospitals. This required action on the part of OCEMS to limit these diversion hours. We settled on an upper limit of 200 hours/month and asked those hospitals exceeding this threshold to implement policies to reduce their hours. This has been mostly successful and OCEMS will continue to monitor the situation.

Alaine Schauer - What can be recommended or shared?

Carl Schultz - The actions hospitals have implemented are somewhat unique to their situation and not generalizable to other institutions. At this point, I want to respect their decisions and not air them in public. Since we are focused on outcome, I did not wish to restrict their creativity by prescribing what they should do. If you wish, you can reach out to them individually and ask them what they are doing. Should the situation get worse, I may eventually start listing these interventions and suggesting other hospitals follow them, but not yet

Alaine Schauer – Perception of different experience seeing flu, or something eventually go away. Everyone started seeing higher number of diversion.

- Bi-Directional Data Exchange Project:  
Jason Azuma - The Bi-Directional Data project is moving forward with significant progress. Active feed with UCI. Still in the test environment to integrate data exchange with UCI.  
Kaiser Permanente is moving along. Data channel must be established. Hospital challenges exist on IT data front. Groundwork component worked quickly. Other hospitals had challenges with getting contracts signed. Hope is for all hospitals in Orange County to get on-board. Still working through contract phase with a couple of hospitals. We have signed contracts with most of the hospitals in Orange County.
- NEMSIS v3.5 Transition  
Jason Azuma – Fundamental for EMS world how data is documented and shared. A lot of work to make as seamless as possible on platform. NEMSIS 3.5 EMS goal is October 1, 2023 go live date. Drop date when it happens, there will be no difference of what you see on the data report. Continuity will provide documents out on changes. Minimal training for MICNs and provisional staff at hospitals.

## V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

*None*

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

- Revocation of Chapman Global Medical Center's ERC designation  
Carl Schultz – OCEMS has formally revoked the ERC designation for Chapman Global Medical Center. Decision reached after multiple attempts to work with them to help them comply with standards and policies. They continued to have problems meeting these standards, and after a recent event, OCEMS felt that it was in the best interests of the patients in Orange County to revoke their status as an ERC. Chapman has appealed this decision. Should the decision be sustained, they will be unable to reapply for 6 months.
- EMSA is changing how they record APOTs  
Jason Azuma – County level reporting continues as it has been. Still rely on dashboards. CEMSIS data will look like ours. Will be some deficiency between our data. No more the 72 hours after incident, if agency has CQI data issues larger number will show up on state report. Margin of error will not be significant. Do not anticipate too much noise from State.
- New/updated policy/standing order release  
Carl Schultz – For the April 1 release of updates, OCEMS has six new policies and 5 new standing orders coming out. Some of these policies really don't change what we do. For example, we added the requirement for performing continuous CPR during a traumatic arrest. This has always been done but was actually not listed in the standing order, so we added it. Only 2 updates of significance are the changes in the Anaphylaxis standing orders for adults and pediatrics. A letter will be coming out around March 15 describing all the updates that will be released on April 1
- Foothill Regional ERC Re-designation  
Genise Silva – Re-designation is up to date for Foothill Regional. We did a site survey. Hospital Trauma Report available for staff. Asked for a 3-year redesignation. No one opposed.
- EMS Fee Study: Review & File (no action)  
Tammi McConnell – EMS fee study executive summary detailed submitting to Board of Supervisors in April. Fee schedule EMS 2017 last one multi-year adjusted rates annually CQI. Got new fees for training program. Education providers fees were declined that applied to hospitals by Board of Supervisors. Board of Supervisors recommended coming back in three years. Adjusting fee schedule on page 2. New fees proposing for designations most significant in Trauma center designation fee. Two additional FTEs in County program at county level per American College of Surgeons (ACS) survey in 2017. A third party, ACS, evaluated the OC Trauma System. Many hospitals were involved. Provided tons of data. The trauma system was born in 1980, the same year as the EMS act. There were several recommendations at the County level. Surveyors said County did not invest in Trauma System. Criticisms were heard adding trauma nurse coordinators and trauma data analyst what are benefits for each designation. Explanation of current what county does provide in terms of funding agreements in place. Indigents in trauma center. Trauma center payment funding per number of patients they see. Information to file meeting with ACS in April to review & provide data. Will be meeting with EMCC in April and asking to provide recommendations.

VII. **NEXT MEETING** – Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

IX. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned.