



# EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE



## REGULAR MEETING

Friday, January 12, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.

Location: County Administration North (CAN) Multipurpose Room  
400 West Civic Center Drive, First Floor, Room 101, Santa Ana, CA 92701

## M I N U T E S

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Health Care Agency Staff</u>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael S. Ritter, MD	– Orange County Medical Assn. (SOCEP)	Carl Schultz, MD	– EMS Medical Director,
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patrick Cichon, MD	– Board of Supervisors, First District	Almaas Shaikh, MD, MPH	– Deputy County Health Officer
<input type="checkbox"/> Larry Grihalva, MICP (exc.)	– Board of Supervisors, Second District	Mike Noone, NRP	– Assistant EMS Director
<input type="checkbox"/> Timothy Munzing, MD (exc.)	– Board of Supervisors, Third District	Kristen Karpow, RN	– EMS Systems & Standards Chief
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Luis Estevez	– Board of Supervisors, Fourth District	Erica Moojen	– EMS Office Supervisor
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ted Heyming, MD	– Board of Supervisors, Fifth District	Eileen Endo	– Office Specialist
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Karras	– Ambulance Association of Orange County		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rebecca Firey	– American Red Cross		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dan Kalmick	– City Selection Committee		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jill Ingram	– Orange County City Managers Association		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chief Adam Loeser	– Orange County Fire Chief Association		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Gibbs, MD	– Orange County Medical Association		
<input type="checkbox"/> Chief Stu Greenberg	– Orange County Police Chiefs’ & Sheriffs Assn.		
<u>Guests Present</u>			
Julia Afrasiabi, RN	– UCI Medical Center	Bryan Johnson, RN	– Orange City Fire Dept.
Danielle Boal, RN	– Brea Fire Department	Robert Katzer, MD	– Anaheim Fire Department
Rob Capobianco	– Orange County Fire Authority	Erick Quintanilla	– Falck Medical Health Corp
Todd Costa, RN	– Orange County Fire Authority	Heidi Ragas, RN	– St. Jude Medical Center
Laura Cross, RN	– Mission Hospital	Rhonda Rosati, RN	– Fullerton Fire Department
Phil Davis	– Emergency Ambulance Service	Jenael Rosenberg, RN	– Hoag Memorial Hospital
Josh Dean	– Premier Ambulance Service	Robert Stuart	– Anaheim Fire Department
Chad Druten	– Emergency Ambulance Service	Jacob Wagoner	– Lynch EMS

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Jill Ingram, Seal Beach City Manager, was introduced as the new Orange County City Managers’ Association representative. Ms. Ingram succeeds Michael Killebrew who served in this capacity.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Minutes from the October 13, 2023 meeting were approved as submitted.**

**4. OCEMS REPORT**

- **Medical Director’s Report** by Dr. Carl Schultz

Anaheim Global Medical Center had its emergency receiving center designation temporarily suspended for a period of 48 hours to bring them into compliance with various OCEMS Policy/Procedures. They returned back online this morning at 7:00 a.m. It is not believed that these types of incidents will reoccur.

A 9-1-1 provider was asked to transport a patient to an out-of-county facility. While field providers are urged to provide quality care, this type of issue needs to be reported to OCEMS. He stated that OCEMS will not support any processes that allow for long transport times of 9-1-1 patients from an Orange County facility to an out-of-county facility especially when involving field paramedics. Should there be a need for a 9-1-1 to be transported out-of-county to a location bordering Orange County (such as Long Beach Memorial or Lakewood Regional Hospital), this is not a problem. Dr. Schultz asked that he be notified directly when a greater distance is needed.

Dr. Schultz reminded those present that ReddiNet cannot be used to turn away patients.

- **Health Emergency Management Report**

Dr. Grewal reported that the number of COVID-19 cases have increased and that there is a surge in the number of RSV and influenza patients which is causing a stress on the EMS system.

Exercises and Meetings: Dr. Grewal reported that an all-day training on how CHEMPACKS will be held on May 21, 2024, Orange County will be the site of a Chempack training hosted by the California Department of Public Health; additional Statewide Health and Medical Exercise is scheduled the month of April. This will be a table-top exercised based on a chemical/burn scenario. The Southwest Regional Trauma Coordinators Committee meeting will be on March 6, 2024 (virtual meeting) from 9 am to 11 am with CEs made available. Dr. Grewal reported that one of the speakers will be Dr. Robert Katzer, Anaheim Fire Department Medical Director. The annual EMSAAC Conference will be held May 29-30, 2024 in San Diego, California.

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

Laurent Repass presented an update on APOT and on hospital diversion since the last meeting. The number of transports reported is the highest since APOT data has been reported.

- **Bi-Directional Exchange Project**

Laurent Repass reported that this is a CDC grant funded project which allows hospitals and field providers to exchange data. Eleven hospitals are already participating in the project and by the end of February, there will be six additional hospitals on board.

## 5. EMCC ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE AND ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS

- **Facilities Advisory Committee:** Genise Silva reported on the items which were discussed at the last meeting held on Tuesday, January 9, 2024. After the meeting adjourned, Chris Riccardi from Children's Hospital of Orange County did a 15 'til 50 presentation.
- **County Prehospital Advisory Committee (CPAC)** met on January 10, 2024 and held a discussion on the type of patient care which may be deemed appropriate and under which circumstances. For example, paramedics may provide basic CPR under certain circumstances (such as basic CPR if the field providers are within the confines of the hospital. ED Nursing Leadership Committee will meet on January 26, 2024.
- **Transportation Advisory Committee** *No meeting. The January 3, 2024 meeting was cancelled.*

## 6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

7. **NEW BUSINESS** – *Reported by Dr. Schultz*

- **Redesignation of La Palma Intercommunity Hospital:** Ms. Silva reported that on November 12, 2023, the Facilities Advisory Committee heard the recommendation of conditional redesignation as an emergency receiving center for La Palma Intercommunity Hospital for a period of three years. Since the November 12, 2023 meeting, La Palma has met all conditions and met all recommendations. Orange County EMS requests the Emergency Medical Care Committee recommend approval that La Palma Intercommunity Hospital receive their full three year designation without conditions.

*The Emergency Medical Care Committee recommended to the EMS Medical Director that La Palma Intercommunity Hospital be redesignated as an Emergency Receiving Center for three years without conditions.*

- **Redesignation of Mission Hospital Regional Medical Center (Mission Viejo):** Ms. Silva reported that Orange County EMS conducted site visits for the redesignation of Mission Hospital as an Emergency Receiving Center; Children’s Comprehensive Emergency Receiving Center; Cardiovascular Receiving Center, Stroke-Neurology Receiving Center, and Base Hospital. Orange County EMS requested that the Facilities Advisory Committee approve the hospital’s redesignations without conditions on January 9, 2024 for three years. The Facilities Advisory Committee approved and forwarded this recommendation to the Emergency Medical Care Committee.

*The Emergency Medical Care Committee recommended to the EMS Medical Director that Mission Hospital Regional Medical Center (Mission Viejo) be redesignated as an Emergency Receiving Center; Children’s Comprehensive Emergency Receiving Center; Cardiovascular Receiving Center, Stroke-Neurology Receiving Center, and Base Hospital for three years without conditions.*

- **Request by Orange County Fire Authority to Convert a Paramedic Assessment Unit:** Dr. Schultz reported that correspondence from the Orange County Fire Authority requesting that the Orange County EMS Medical Director to convert a Paramedic Assessment Unity to a full Advanced Life Support (ALS) unit in Coto de Caza. Dr. Schultz stated as there is a need in the area he recommends that this request by approved.

*The Emergency Medical Care Committee recommended to the EMS Medical Director that a paramedic assessment unit in Coto de Caza be converted to an ALS Unit*

8. **MEMBER COMMENT**

*Jim Karras reported the Ambulance Association of Orange County has merged with the Los Angeles County Ambulance Association and effective January 1, 2024; this group will be known as the Southern California Ambulance Association. This group will continue to meet on a monthly basis. Their website is [www.scaa.net](http://www.scaa.net)*

*Dr. Cichon: Asked about APOT time ramifications for exceeding APOT times and the care of patients who may be challenging to transfer to and from a gurney.*

9. **PUBLIC FORUM**     *None heard.*

10. **NEXT MEETING** – The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 12, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

11. **ADJOURNMENT** – With no further business, meeting was adjourned.