



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, April 1, 2026 – 9:00am



MINUTES

MEMBERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CATEGORY REPRESENTED</u>	<u>ORANGE COUNTY EMS STAFF</u>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matt Armstrong, Chair	- S. California Ambulance Association	Mike Noone, EMT-P	- Assistant EMS Director
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ryan Creager	- Air Transport Provider	Carl Schultz, MD	- EMS Medical Director
<input type="checkbox"/> Chad Druten	- Ambulance Service Provider 9-1-1	Gagandeep Grewal, MD	- Associate EMS Medical Director
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jacob Wagoner	- Ambulance Service Provider non- 9-1-1	Kristen Karpow, RN	- EMS Clinical Chief
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bryan Johnson, RN	- Fire Service Provider (with transport)	Meng Chung, EMT-P	- EMS Personnel Chief
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Cross, RN	- Mission Hospital	Adrian Rodriguez	- Ambulance Performance Chief
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Childress, RN	- ED Nursing Leadership	Ruth Clark, RN	- EMS Trauma Coordinator
		Laurent Repass, NREMT-P	- EMS Information & Analytics Chief
		Anjan Purohit, NREMT-P	- EMS Analytics Coordinator
		Drew Bernard, EMT	- EMS Specialist
		Sarkis Sarkisian, EMT	- EMS Coordinator
		Lisa Wilson	- Information Processing Technician

GUESTS PRESENT

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Whitney Patnode	- Rady Children's Health
Bill Weston	- Emergency Ambulance Service
Heidi Ragas	- St. Jude
Jenael Rosenberg	- Hoag
Danielle Boal	- Brea Fire Department
Amanda Collins	- Rady Children's Health
Josh Dean	- Premier Ambulance
Shane Ryan	- Falck
Julia Afrasiabi	- UCI

I. CALL TO ORDER by Matt Armstrong (Chair) 9:06am

II. INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS by Dr. Almaas A. Shaikh

- Interim EMS Medical Director- Almaas Shaikh MD
- EMS Administrative Director – Daniel McDonnell

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Action Item: Approval of January 7, 2026, Minutes Approved

IV. OCEMS REPORT

- Medical Director Report by Dr. Almaas A. Shaikh
Dr. Shaikh introduced the new EMS Director, Daniel, and explained that the department is undergoing important leadership transitions focused on improving internal alignment, long-term planning, and overall organizational clarity. She emphasized the need to make future meetings more intentional by

reducing routine report-outs and instead fostering more interactive, purpose-driven discussions. She also provided an update on the ongoing Standing Orders review, noting that the subcommittee continues to address several inconsistencies, particularly within I-15 and I-20 and that an updated policy memo is expected by the end of the week, slightly delayed from the originally planned April 1 release.

- 2026 EMSAAC Conference by
 - Annual EMS conference
 - Pre-conference: April 26 (Universal City)
 - Main Conference: April 27
 - Registration open on EMSEC website.
- EMS Report and Training Opportunities *by Dr. Gagandeep Grewal*

The Statewide Medical Health Exercise includes a final planning meeting on April 7, followed by the full exercise on April 23 from 8:00 a.m. to noon. This year's scenario will simulate a cyberattack, creating an electronic system outage and potentially requiring simulated patient redistribution, giving participating providers an opportunity to practice contingency operations and test emergency response workflows under pressure.

Chapter 6 regulations governing specialty centers were recently rejected due to minor language issues but will be revised and resubmitted. In addition, a major revamp of Chapter 3—covering EMT and paramedic scope of practice—is expected later this year, with potential additions such as permitting EMTs to use glucometers and early findings from a Northern California study on EMT administration of olanzapine for psychiatric patients.

- APOT / Enhanced Diversion Reports *by Laurent Repass*

The APOT reporting process is undergoing significant changes, with the December 2025 APOT report serving as the final manually produced version as the system transitions to state-generated reports required under AB 40, meaning OCEMS will no longer produce monthly APOT or diversion PDFs. In place of the prior reports, new real-time operational dashboards are being implemented, offering rolling 30-day data that include APOT medians and 90th percentiles, transport times, transfer-of-care signature times, and the newly added arrival-to-back-in-service metric, all based on 100% of local transport records, unlike the state's more limited dataset. The committee unanimously voted to support making these dashboards public. Additional dashboards are also now available, including a Diversion Dashboard with weekly updates dating back to 2017, and a Countywide Injury Dashboard that tracks five years of incident data by age, gender, cause of injury, geography, and trauma-triage criteria, providing valuable insight into emerging trends such as the rise in e-bike injuries among males aged 15–24.
- NEMSIS v3.5.1 and Data Dictionary Updates *by Laurent Repass*

A new NEMSIS-compliant data dictionary has been released, and all OC-MEDS users are already fully compliant with the updated standard. Third-party ePCR vendors, however, are required to meet the new compliance requirements by November 1, 2026.
- 2026 Emergency Ground Ambulance Rate Increase Policy 714.00 *by Drew Bernard*

There are currently 482 permitted ground ambulances in the county, reflecting an increase of 15 units since the last meeting, along with three permitted air ambulances. The system now includes 20 licensed ground ambulance companies and one licensed air ambulance provider. Additionally, a new ground ambulance company, MTI Ambulance, has recently been approved.

OCEMS Policy 777.00 Update, 50-Day Comment by *Adrian Rodriguez*

- Ambulance Inspection Updates by *Drew Bernard*
- New BLS Ground Ambulance Provider by *Drew Bernard*

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- CPR Cards accepted in Orange County by *Matt Armstrong*

VII. NEXT MEETING

- July 1, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT