



COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
8300 Marine Way, Suite 200
Irvine, CA 92618



COUNTY PREHOSPITAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, July 8, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.
Location: 8300 Marine Way, Irvine CA 92618

EMS Conference Room: AOC-103B

MINUTES

MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS

- ☐ Theodore Heyming, MD
- ☐ Bryan Johnson, MD
- ☐ James Price, MD
- ☒ Robert Granata, MD
- ☒ Joshua Bobko, MD
- ☒ Kelly Dodge, MD
- ☐ Iksoo Kang, MD
- ☐ Eric McCoy, MD
- ☒ David Ngo, MD
- ☐ Kelly Unger, MD
- ☐ Robert Katzer, MD
- ☒ Shira Schlesinger, MD
- ☐ Julia Afrasiabi, RN
- ☒ Laura Cross, RN
- ☒ Whitney Patnode, RN
- ☐ Jill Patt, RN
- ☐ Heidi Ragas, RN
- ☒ Jenael Rosenberg, RN
- ☒ Abigail Baur, RN

REPRESENTING

BHPD – Rady Children's Hospital Orange County
Orange City Fire Department
BHPD – Mission Hospital
BHPD – Orange County Global Med. Ctr.
Medical Director – OC Fire Authority
BHPD – Hoag Memorial Hospital
BHPD – St. Jude Medical Center
BHPD – UCI Medical Center
BHPD – Huntington Beach Hospital
BHPD – Huntington Beach Hospital
Medical Director - Anaheim Fire & Rescue
Medical Director - Newport Beach Fire Dept
BHC – UCI Medical Center
BHC – Mission Hospital
BHC – Rady Children's Hospital Orange County
BHC – Huntington Beach Hospital
BHC – St. Jude Medical Center
BHC – Hoag Memorial Hospital
BHC – OC Global Medical Center

MEMBERS

- ☐ Patrick Dibb
- ☐ Patty Glead, RN
- ☒ Justin Horner, EMT-P
- ☐ Colin Wood
- ☐ Bryan Johnson, RN
- ☒ Cyndie Strader

REPRESENTING

- EMT Training Programs
- Paramedic Training
- Fire Chiefs EMS Committee
- Anaheim Fire & Rescue
- Orange City Fire Dept.
- OC ED Nursing Leadership

HCA/OCEMS STAFF PRESENT

- ☒ Almaas Shaikh, MD
- ☒ Daniel McDonnell, NRP
- ☒ Gagandeep Grewal, MD
- ☒ Kristen Karpow, RN
- ☒ Laurent Repass, NRP
- ☒ Jason Azuma, NRP
- ☒ Genise Silva, RN
- ☒ Ruth Clark, RN
- ☒ Stephanie King, RN
- ☒ Fran Cohen, RN
- ☐ Chad Cossey
- ☒ Drew Bernard
- ☒ Kelly Asch

- Interim EMS Medical Director
- EMS Director
- Associate EMS Medical Director
- EMS Clinical Chief
- EMS Analytics Chief
- EMS OC-MEDS Coordinator
- EMS Facilities Coordinator
- EMS Trauma Coordinator
- EMS Prehospital/CQI Coordinator
- EMS Liaison
- EMS Program Supervisor II
- EMS Specialist
- HDP Staff Assistant

GUESTS PRESENT

NAME

Matt Armstrong
Danielle Ogaz
Vicki Sweet
Zach Regan
Rhonda Rosati
Todd Costa
Mike Ruhl
Laura Derr

REPRESENTING

Premier Ambulance
LA County Fire Department
OCSA Air Support
Mercy Air
Fullerton Fire Department
UCI Trauma
Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue
St. Joseph Hospital

NAME

Kristin Thompson
Ray McQueen
Andrew Tran
Amanda Collins
Amanda Ramos
Erick Quintanilla
Mildred Cureton
Vishal Raj

REPRESENTING

Newport Beach Fire Department
Orange County Fire Authority
Orange County Fire Authority
Rady Children's Hospital Orange County
Lynch Ambulance
Falck Ambulance
Foothill Medical Center
Falck Ambulance

I. CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order by Justin Horner at 1:13 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Around the room introductions with name, title and facility represented

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Action Item: Approval of May 13, 2026, Minutes, approved** (No objections or amendments noted).

IV. OCEMS REPORT

- OCEMS Report by *Almaas Shaikh, MD*
 - We will no longer be printing agenda packets. We encourage you to bring laptops or print them on your own.
 - Dr. Shaikh will be doing "ride-a-longs" over the next two months to get to know what it is like to be in the field. Please let your administration know.

- An RFP is currently being drafted for a Stroke Peds Assessment to ensure that is fair, transparent, accountable and not done by anyone that's invested in the Orange County system.
- Daniel McDonnell
 - We finished up the interview process for the Medical Director position. We should have an announcement hopefully by the end of next week.
 - We are currently working with Huntington Beach Fire Department to establish a pilot program for high utilizers. We have an upcoming meeting to establish the process.
 - We will be forming an equipment work group with some of the logistics staff from both public and private ambulance companies to evaluate what the ambulances carry.
 - We are going to become a Narcan distribution center for the state. We will be working with our substance abuse disorder program to see if there's a reduction in overdoses in the areas where Narcan is left behind.
- Health Disaster Preparedness Report *by Gagandeep Grewal, MD*
 - We have a CHEMPACK training coming up on September 17.
 - We are working on the High Consequence Infectious Disease (HCID) plan. It is really important that we are prepared ahead of time in cases with special pathogens.
- NEMSIS 3.5.1 and CEMSIS Transition Update *by Laurent Repass, NRP*
 - The federal requirement for transition to NEMSIS 3.5.1 of the state requirement is November 1st. We have already completed that transition and are sending our data to the state in that format. The state has also transitioned to a new vendor for the CEMSIS system. They asked that all local EMS agencies transition to that system. We completed that transition a week ago.
- Policy 777.00 Second Opinion Comment Period *by Laurent Repass, NRP*
 - Policy 777.00 is up for public comment. It is the 2nd public comment period. It closes tomorrow at 8:00 a.m. If you have any comments, please get them in before tomorrow morning.
- APOT/Diversion Dashboards *by Kristen Karpow, RN*
 - Just a reminder that we will no longer create, print, or share monthly APOT and Diversion tables. The new dashboards are available on our website and can be accessed at any time. You are welcome to bring any APOT or Diversion questions to our meetings for discussion. See Attachment #2 for QR codes and links to the dashboards on our website.

V. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- IO procedure PR-115 update *by Almaas Shaikh, MD*
 - The diagrams have been updated, and the pediatric and adult definitions have been adjusted. The word "child" throughout the document will be changed to "pediatric" It is now complete.
- Magnesium use in pregnancy-related emergencies *by Almaas Shaikh, MD*
 - The policy has been written. The medical portion has been approved by our Medical Advisory Committee.
- Update to SO-C-10 (Cardiopulmonary Arrest) *by Almaas Shaikh, MD*
 - This standing order regarding cardiac arrests has been completed. The guideline was rewritten into a conceptual format and a new special considerations section will address sodium bicarbonate, calcium, magnesium sulfate, and naloxone for specific etiologies. Base Hospital Coordinators requested a standardized pronouncement section which has been added.
- Meeting schedule and formats *by Almaas Shaikh, MD*
 - Starting in January 2027 we are going to begin a 12-month pilot to combine CPAC, FAC, and TAC into one joint meeting, with EMCC approval. The meeting is proposed to be on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS**

- Pediatric Stroke *NEW / Redline Ped AMS & Seizure SOs *by Ruth Clark, RN*
 - Brand new guideline
 - Wording within the guideline which would exclude simple febrile seizures
 - Trying to catch first-time seizure pediatric patients.
 - SO-P-065 Pediatric Altered Mental Status
 - Updated language for capnography, EtCO2, and VS parameters to treat with fluids to match what is in print on SO Stroke.
 - Added line about hypoglycemia (see document).
 - Added line to determine if meets stroke criteria (see document).
 - **Will be in the New Format by the time it is released in October.**
 - **SO-P-075 Pediatric Seizure**
 - Added line to determine if meets stroke criteria (see document).
 - Added line for "a first time, non-febrile seizure in any age and for any duration is considered a neurological emergency and should be transported to a CCERC."
 - Added definition for simple febrile seizures (see document).
 - **Will be in the New Format by the time it is released in October.**
- OCEMS Procedure PR-230 (Push Dose Epinephrine) *by Ruth Clark, RN*
 - Reworded indications, added the word considerations (see document).
 - Cleaned up the contraindications list, now just says hemorrhagic shock.
 - Did some adjustment with the wording in regards to preparing for administration. Took away the wording of "mixing instructions". Changed the wording for administration from "push dose" to "administration".
 - Removed the statement of base hospital contact and order no longer required.
- OCEMS Treatment Guideline M-005 (Abdomen Pain) *by Ruth Clark, RN*
 - BLS Interventions added:
 - Refer to SO-B-001.
 - Evaluate and treat for hypoglycemia per OCEMS Procedures B-050 and B-055.
 - NPO status.
 - No change made to ALS interventions from previous standing orders.
 - Additional notations were made to reinforce different causes of abdomen pain.
 - Listed concerning elements from patient history to reinforce the need for ALS transport.
- OCEMS Treatment Guideline M-010 (Diabetic Emergencies) *by Ruth Clark, RN*
 - M-010 was originally just for Hyperglycemia.
 - There was no separate SO for Hypoglycemia other than the SO for Altered Mental Status.
 - Combined the two diabetic conditions into this one treatment guideline.
 - No change made to ALS interventions from previous standing orders.
 - BLS intervention added:
 - Refer to SO-B-001.
 - Assess blood glucose and treat per SO-B-003.
 - Added the notation in the Additional Considerations section to select 'Provision of Food' with the drop-down menu of the Procedures Tab on the ePCR.
- OCEMS Treatment Guideline M-015 (Allergic Reaction) *by Ruth Clark, RN*
 - BLS Interventions added:
 - Refer to SO-B-001.
 - Assist patients with the administration of their physician prescribed emergency devices and medications to include but not limited to bronchodilator inhaler/nebulizer or epinephrine device (autoinjector).
 - Remove the stinger / injection mechanism.
 - Ensure proper positioning for adequate ventilation and suction as needed.
 - Allergic Reaction definition highlighting skin-based reaction & no airway involvement.

- Anaphylaxis definition highlighting acute onset of a systemic reaction involving two or more systems, any airway involvement, or unstable vital signs.
- Adding Diphenhydramine intervention to allergic reaction treatment.
- Allowing for BLS transport after Diphenhydramine intervention with skin-based reaction, stable, vital signs, and no history of anaphylaxis. **adult only**
- OCEMS Treatment Guideline E-005 (Burns) *by Ruth Clark, RN*
 - BLS Interventions added:
 - Refer to SO-B-001.
 - Break contact with causative agent
 - Remove jewelry and clothing from the area involved.
 - Begin flushing burns with copious amounts of cool running water (target 20 minutes; do not delay transport).
 - Specific interventions to do for thermal burns, toxic inhalation, chemical burns, and tar burns added.
 - ALS Interventions added:
 - Added additional forms of pain medication that can be given.
 - Under Additional Considerations explanation for 20CRW was made.
 - 20 minutes of cool running water within the first three hours prevents worsening injury, reduces pain, lowers risk of infection, and improves long-term outcomes.
- OCEMS Treatment Guideline E 010 (Decompression Sickness) *by Ruth Clark, RN*
 - BLS Interventions:
 - Refer to SO-B-001.
 - Spinal motion restriction if diving or shore-break accident suspected.
 - Administer 100% O2 via mask as soon as possible.
 - Prevent and treat hypothermia by removing wet clothing and initiating rewarming when appropriate.
 - No change made to ALS interventions from previous standing orders.
 - Removed the statement “position patient in flat, supine position” due to recent studies on the Durant and Trendelenburg positions showing no additional benefit and it is best to place patient in a position of comfort.
 - Added a list of items to obtain from diving history if available under the Additional Considerations section.
- OCEMS Treatment Guideline E-015 (Drowning) *by Ruth Clark, RN*
 - BLS Interventions added:
 - Refer to SO-B-001.
 - Spinal motion restriction if diving or shore-break accident suspected.
 - Prevent and treat hypothermia by removing wet clothing and initiating rewarming when appropriate.
 - No change made to ALS interventions from previous standing orders.
 - Added a list of items to obtain from submersion history if available under the Additional Considerations section.
- OCEMS Treatment Guideline E-015 (Thermal Disorders) *by Ruth Clark, RN*
 - BLS Interventions added:
 - Refer to SO-B-001.
 - Specific interventions to do for hypothermia, mild / moderate hyperthermia, and sever hyperthermia added.
 - No change made to ALS interventions from previous standing orders.
 - Added to Additional Considerations section “Monitor the skin if you apply ice packs for prolonged periods. The skin is susceptible to damage with prolong exposure to ice. Covering ice packs with a sheet and adjusting the site can mitigate injury.”

- Under the Base Hospital section added additional forms of pain medication that can be given.
- OCEMS Treatment Guideline E-030 (Snake Envenomation) *by Ruth Clark, RN*
 - BLS Interventions added:
 - Refer to SO-B-001.
 - Added interventions for the affected extremity to include:
 - Minimize patient movement.
 - Immobilize the affected extremity and keep it at heart level.
 - Remove any restrictive clothing or jewelry from the affected extremity.
 - Avoid blood pressure cuffs or other constrictive devices on the affected extremity.
 - Control any external bleeding if present
 - ALS Interventions added:
 - Treating Allergic Reaction.
 - Treating Hypotension.
 - Added additional forms of pain medication to be given.
 - **Note: Ketorolac is excluded due to coagulopathy.
- OCEMS Treatment Guideline P-060 (Ped Allergic Reaction) *by Ruth Clark, RN*
 - BLS Interventions added:
 - Refer to SO-B-001.
 - Assist patients with the administration of their physician prescribed emergency devices and medications to include but not limited to bronchodilator inhaler/nebulizer or epinephrine device (autoinjector).
 - Remove the stinger / injection mechanism.
 - Ensure proper positioning for adequate ventilation and suction as needed.
 - Allergic Reaction definition highlighting skin-based reaction & no airway involvement.
 - Anaphylaxis definition highlighting acute onset of a systemic reaction involving two or more systems, any airway involvement, or unstable vital signs.
 - ALS Interventions added:
 - Assessment of PAT (pediatric assessment triangle).
 - When to use an ALS airway for when BLS airway management is not maintain adequate ventilation.
 - Use of EtCO2
 - Adding Diphenhydramine intervention to allergic reaction treatment.
 - Added a table showing normal vital signs by age under the additional considerations section.

OCEMS Procedure PR-060 & PR-065 (Needle Thoracostomy) *by Almaas Shaikh, MD* Adding anterior axillary approach to align with regionwide practice and ATLS guidance and will emphasize hypoxia as a primary indicator of tension pneumothorax. Wording with site placement will be corrected.

OC Human Trafficking Task Force Presentation Slides *by Kristen Karpow, RN*

- The Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force gave a great presentation at the last CPAC meeting that was well received. With permission from the Task Force, we are sharing their slide deck (see Attachment #18 for a QR code and link to access it).

VII. **ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Base Hospital Coordinators
 - We had the No Fear conference in June, and it was a great success. There will be another conference in the fall.
- Orange County ED Nursing Leadership
 - Next meeting is July 31st.

- Orange County Fire Chiefs EMS Committee
 - Dark in July. Next meeting is in August. We will be doing a lot of hiring.
- Pediatric Collaborative Meeting –*on hold*
- Facilities Advisory Committee
 - Will be meeting on Tuesday at 9 a.m.
- Prehospital agencies decide on agenda topic(s)
 - No new topics.

VIII. **SAVE THE DATE**

- Most of the trainings are free, however the California Hospital Association Disaster Conference is not. We will be focusing on disaster at the Trauma Grand Rounds on October 14th.

IX. **ROUNDTABLE**

- Dr. Bobko asked to take a strategic pause on what we have done before we add more.
- Dr. Schlesinger asked if the policy on Pediatric Stroke gets delayed until changes are made.
- Whitney Patnode discussed vital signs for peds and making it uniform across the board.

X. **NEXT MEETING**

- Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

XI. **ADJOURNMENT**

- The meeting was adjourned at 2:14 p.m.