



EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE



Friday, July 10, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.
8300 Marine Way, Irvine, CA 92618
Meeting Room 103-B

ATTENDANCE

Name	Representing	Health Care Agency Staff
☒ Michael S. Ritter, MD	– Orange County Medical Assn. (SOCEP)	Mindy Winterswyk – Director, Specialized Medical Services
☐ Van Vu, MD	– Board of Supervisors, First District	Almaas Shaikh – EMS Interim Medical Director
☒ Larry Grihalva, MICP	– Board of Supervisors, Second District	Daniel McDonnell, NRP – EMS Director
☒ Timothy Munzing, MD	– Board of Supervisors, Third District	Gagandeep Grewal, MD – Associate EMS Medical Director
☒ Adam Loeser, Fire Chief	– Board of Supervisors, Fourth District	Laurent Repass, NRP – EMS Performance Chief
☐ Theodore Heyming, MD	– Board of Supervisors, Fifth District	Kristen Karpow, RN – EMS Clinical Systems Chief
☒ Matt Armstrong	– Ambulance Association of Orange County	Ruth Clark, RN – EMS Trauma Coordinator
☐ Rebecca Firey	– American Red Cross	Genise Silva – EMS Facilities Coordinator
☒ Alan Albright, LMFT	– Orange County Behavioral Health Advisory Board	Stephanie King, RN – EMS Prehospital/ CQI Coordinator
☐ Vacant	– Orange County City Managers Association	Drew Bernard – EMS Specialist
☐ Chief Eric McCoy	– Orange County Fire Chief Association	Carissa Martinez – EMS Office Specialist
☐ David Gibbs, MD	– Orange County Medical Association	
☐ Chief Stu Greenberg	– Orange County Police Chiefs' & Sheriffs Assn.	
☒ Kim Zaky, DNP	– Orange Coast Emergency Nurses Association	
☒ Luke Schademan, RN	– Hospital Association of Southern California	
☐ Vacant	– Orange County Business Council	
☒ Blair Stewart, Mayor	– City Selection Committee	
Guests Present		
Danielle Ogaz	– LA County Fire	
Vicki Sweet	– OCSA Air Support	
Laura Cross, RN	– Mission Hospital	
Danielle Boal	– Brea Fire	
Amanda Collins	– Rady	
Ryan Creager	– Mercy Air	
Joseph Tolentino	– Kaiser Orange County	
Abigail Baur	– OC Global Medical Ctr.	
Heidi Ragas, RN	– St. Jude	

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order at 9:00am by *Michael Ritter, MD*

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve *April 10, 2026, minutes*. *Approved: 1st; 2nd none opposed.*

3. **OCEMS REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE**

- Administrative Director's Report by *Daniel McDonnell, NRP*

- High Utilizer Pilot Program:

Developing a countywide process to identify and manage high EMS utilizers, involving behavioral health, substance use services, base hospitals, and ED physicians.

- Equipment Work Group:

Establishing a group to review ambulance medication/equipment utilization, expiration trends, cost considerations, and potential standing-order changes.

- Medical Director Recruitment:

Reference checks completed, awaiting final steps from County HR within 1–2 weeks.

- Narcan Distribution Center:

OCEMS pursuing designation as a distribution hub for agencies lacking their own programs. Coordination with OCFA and others will support leave-behind programs and overdose tracking.

- Medical Director's Report *by Almaas Shaikh, MD*
 - Standing Orders Work Group continues revising policies, focusing first on items with clinical safety considerations.
 - Updated policies will move through committees in preparation for October release.
 - Dr. Shaikh will conduct field sit alongs and fly along observations in a learning—not regulatory—capacity.
 - Agenda packets will no longer be printed except for limited copies. All materials are posted online at least 72 hours prior, with a long term goal of posting 14 days ahead.
- Health Disaster Preparedness Report *by Gagandeep Grewal, MD*
 - Legislative updates on EMS regulations: APOT regulations (Ch. 1.2) including audit requirements; specialty care regulations (Ch. 6), and EMT scope expansion to include Zofran (Ch. 3.1). All are awaiting OAL approval.
 - State and federal legislative activity related to EMS reimbursement and trauma/pediatric funding.
 - Healthcare Coalition Meeting scheduled July 23.
 - Ebola outbreak monitoring; no local high risk cases but hospitals must maintain protocols.
 - Respiratory virus activity remains low.
- NEMSIS 3.5.1 and new CEMSIS Transition *by Laurent Repass, NRP*
 - OCEMS completed the Nexus system transition, achieving over 99% success (state benchmark: 95%).
 - Approximately 4,000 PCRs submitted daily; all within regulatory timelines (24 hour submission).

EMCC ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE AND ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS

- Facilities Advisory Committee *(May 12, 2026) by Genise Silva, RN*
 - Committee reviewing membership vacancies; proposals to follow under Action Items.
- Medical Advisory Committee *(May 13 & July 8, 2026) by Almaas Shaikh, MD*
 - Continued review of standing orders and medical policy updates.
 - Significant collaborative discussion between trauma surgeons and emergency physicians on trauma-related topics.
- County Prehospital Advisory Committee *(May 13 & July 8, 2026) by Kristen Karpow, RN*
 - Reviewed standing orders and related updates.
- Transportation Advisory Committee *(July 1, 2026) by Matt Armstrong, SCAA*
 - Reviewed ambulance rate adjustments and upcoming 2027 licensure inspections.
 - Brief discussion regarding IFT ALS policy comment periods.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Meeting Schedules & Formats *by Almaas Shaikh, MD*

Proposal to consolidate CPAC, FAC, and TAC into a single combined meeting block to reduce duplicative discussions and improve efficiency.
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Action: Motion approved to pilot combined meetings beginning January 1, 2027.

- Survey Results for EMCC Topics *by Almaas Shaikh, MD*
 - Ten initial responses indicated strong interest in ED diversion trends and behavioral health impacts.
 - QR code shared to encourage additional survey input.
- Behavioral Health *by Gagandeep Grewal, MD*
 - SB 43 (expansion of Grave Disability to include SUD): 1.6% of 5150s and 3% of GD due to SUD alone—no major impacts on the system.
 - Triage to Alternate Destination Pilot—Anaheim Fire has trained enough paramedics, the County CSU is ready to receive patients. Plan is to initiate TAD pilot on Monday, July 13th. OCEMS will update EMCC on progress.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- OCEMS Policy #240.30 OC Specialty Service (6-2026) *by Almaas Shaikh, MD*
Updates : pediatric ICU UCI Fountain Valley was removed and sexual assault service Chapman Global Medical Center was added.
- New Treatment Guideline Format *by Almaas Shaikh, MD*
Presented updated standardized format merging BLS/ALS guidance with new definitions, color coding, and streamlined instructions.

***Motion to approve ; All Policies/Procedures/Treatment Guidelines for October Update-
Approved: 1st; 2nd none opposed.***

- OCEMS Procedure PR-115 (Intraosseous Infusion) *by Almaas Shaikh, MD*
- OCEMS Procedure Needle Thoracostomy *by Almaas Shaikh, MD*
- OCEMS Treatment Guideline C-010 (Cardiac Arrest) *by Almaas Shaikh, MD*
- New Treatment Guideline for Pediatric Stroke *by Ruth Clark, RN*
- OCEMS Policy #310.00 (ALS Base Contact) Update *by Ruth Clark, RN*
- OCEMS Policy #309.00 (Transport of Public Safety Dogs) *by Ruth Clark, RN*
- OCEMS Procedure #B-009 (Public Safety Dog Transport) *by Ruth Clark, RN*
- OCEMS Policy #310.30 & #310.31 (Trauma Triage Criteria) *by Ruth Clark, RN*
- OCEMS Procedure PR-230 (Push Dose Epinephrine) *by Ruth Clark, RN*
- OCEMS Treatment Guideline M-005 (Abdomen Pain) *by Ruth Clark, RN*
- OCEMS Treatment Guideline M-010 (Diabetic Emergencies) *by Ruth Clark, RN*
- OCEMS Treatment Guideline M-015 (Allergic Reaction) *by Ruth Clark, RN*
- OCEMS Treatment Guideline E-005 (Burns) *by Ruth Clark, RN*
- OCEMS Treatment Guideline E 010 (Decompression Sickness) *by Ruth Clark, RN*
- OCEMS Treatment Guideline E-015 (Drowning) *by Ruth Clark, RN*
- OCEMS Treatment Guideline E-015 (Thermal Disorders) *by Ruth Clark, RN*
- OCEMS Treatment Guideline E-030 (Snake Envenomation) *by Ruth Clark, RN*
- OCEMS Treatment Guideline P-060 (Pediatric Allergic Reaction) *by Ruth Clark, RN*

Recommended Action: Approvals for Facility Designations

- Kaiser Anaheim Emergency Receiving Center Designation *by Genise Silva, RN*
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Recommended designation: 3-year conditional.

Approved: none opposed.

Recommended Action: Approvals for Paramedic Unit-Permanent Activation

- Fullerton Fire Department-Additional ALS Unit by *Stephanie King, RN*

Approved: none opposed.

- Newport Beach Fire Department-Request upgrade from BLS to PAU of NT62 by *Stephanie King, RN*

Approved: none opposed.

Recommended Action: Approval for Facilities Advisory Committee New Members

by Genise Silva, RN

- Mayra Osuna, RN for Hospital Administrative Representative
- Dr. Stephen Gassner for Emergency Physician Representative
- Dr. Megan Dickson for Pediatric Emergency Physician Representative and Chairman

Approved: none opposed

6. MEMBER COMMENTS

- Upcoming major events (FIFA, Super Bowl, Olympics) expected to affect Orange County operations; monitoring and planning efforts underway.
- FIFA impacts minimal; situational reports distributed internally and through the healthcare coalition.
- Orange County increasingly involved in planning for the Super Bowl and Olympics; both remain in early planning phases.
- EMS agencies using FIFA as a preparatory model for larger future events; expanding training opportunities and resource readiness.
- Hospital coalition minutes now publicly posted; communication expected to improve across partners.
- OCEMS developing RFPs for:
 - Countywide stroke needs assessment (third-party evaluator with no OC ties).
 - Data modernization initiative to improve patient tracking and reunification processes during large-scale incidents.

7. PUBLIC FORUM

No public comments

8. NEXT MEETING – Friday, October 9 , 2026, at 09:00am

9. ADJOURNMENT- Meeting was adjourned at 10:08am
