



County of Orange Health Care Agency
 Regulatory/Medical Health Services
 Emergency Medical Services
 405 W. Fifth Street, Suite 301-A
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 (714) 834-3500



COUNTY PARAMEDIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 11, 2020 – 1:00 p.m.

M I N U T E S

MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE			
MEMBERS	REPRESENTING	MEMBERS	REPRESENTING
Theodore Heyming, MD	– Children’s Hospital of Orange County	Cyndie Strader, RN	– Hoag Memorial Hospital
Jon Cline, MD (excused)	– Mission Hospital	Chris Waddell, RN	– Huntington Beach Hospital
Robert Granata, MD	– Orange County Global Med. Center	Kim Zaky, RN	– Children’s Hospital of Orange County
Matt Hunt, MD	– Hoag Memorial Hospital	Kim Nichols, RN	– OC ED Nursing Leadership
Iksoo Kang, MD	– St. Jude Medical Center	Kristin Thompson, RN	– Fire Chiefs EMS
Eric McCoy, MD	– UCI Medical Center		
David Ngo, MD	– Huntington Beach Hospital	ORANGE COUNTY EMS STAFF PRESENT	
Claus Hecht, MD	– Orange County Fire Authority	Carl Schultz MD	– EMS Medical Director
Robert Katzer, MD	– Anaheim Fire Department	Gagandeep Grewal, MD	– Associate EMS Med. Director
Shira Schlesinger, MD, MPH	– Newport Beach Fire Dept.	Jesse Allured, EMT-P	– Assistant EMS Director
		Laurent Repass, NRP	– EMS Information Systems Chief
Ruth Clark, RN	– Orange County Global Med. Center	Danielle Ogaz	– EMS Systems & Standards Chief
Laura Cross, RN	– Mission Hospital	David Johnson, RN	– Facilities Coordinator
Gloria Guerra, RN	– St. Jude Medical Center	Jason Azuma, NRP	– OC-MEDS Coordinator
Maryle Olivier, RN	– UCI Medical Center		
GUESTS PRESENT			
NAME	REPRESENTING	NAME	REPRESENTING
Dave Barry	– Anaheim Fire & Rescue	Vanessa Hayflich	– Mercy Air Service
Drew Bernard	– Emergency Ambulance Service	Caroline Jack	– Newport Beach Fire Department
Greg Boswell, RN	– Fountain Valley Fire Department	Bryan Johnson, RN	– Orange City Fire Department
Ryan Creager	– Mercy Air Service	Robert Ower	– Premier Medical Transport
Josh Dean	– Lifeline Ambulance Service	Patrick Powers, EMT-P	– City of Placentia
Aja Dickey	– Premier Ambulance Service	Rhonda Rosati, RN	– Brea/Fullerton Fire Department
Brice Girdley, RN	– Lynch Ambulance Service	Jacob Wagoner	– Lynch Ambulance Service
Larry Grihalva	– Costa Mesa Fire Department		

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Dr. Ted Heyming.

II. INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dr. Schultz announced the loss of Mark Chew, Pharm.D. who passed away from complications of COVID-19 in January.
- Jesse Allured, EMT-P was introduced as the new Assistant EMS Director. A new ALS/CQI Coordinator is in the process of hiring a new ALS/CQI Coordinator to replace Vicki Sweet who retired in November.
- Ruth Clark introduced Dr. Robert Granata who is the new base hospital physician represented from Orange County Global Medical Center.

- Ruth Clark stated that Maryle Oliver has announced her upcoming retirement from UCI Medical Center in the next two months (Eileen Endo, on behalf of OCEMS, is making plans to recognize Maryle Olivier for her contributions to the Orange County EMS System).

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for the September 9, 2020 meeting were approved as submitted.

IV. OCEMS REPORT

- **Medical Director's Report**

Dr. Schultz reported on the number of COVID cases, the number of tests conducted and announced that new Orange County Policies & Procedures to become effective on April 1, 2021.

- **OCEMS Report**

David Johnson reported that the Fairview Alternative Care Site was reopened and moving to a "warm closure" on March 15, 2021. Fairview was also conducting a monoclonal fusion unit and a dementia unit for Alzheimer patients not able to return to their facilities.

Health Emergency Management Report

David Johnson reported that the Health Care Agency Operations Center is at a Level 2 alert. Fairview Alternative Care Site was reopened and moving to a "warm closure" on March 15, 2021. Fairview was also conducting a monoclonal fusion unit and a dementia unit for Alzheimer patients not able to return to their facilities. Dr. Grewal reported there have been 880,000 vaccinations to Orange County residents with 250,000 residents fully vaccinated. He reported that the amount of vaccine allocated is determined by the State of California. Danielle Ogaz reported that Health Care Coalition of Orange County meetings are currently on hold until further notice.

- **Orange County Hospital Diversion Report (January 1 to December 31, 2020)**

Mr. Johnson reported on the annual diversion report (Attachment #2). When hospital diversion was noted to be in the triple digits, Dr. Schultz issued a no diversion order in December and then again in January. At this time, ED diversion hours are slowly declining to a normal rate. Mr. Johnson also reported that certain facilities had higher CT diversion hours than normal. Generally, CT diversion occurs when maintenance is needed. However, due to COVID, hospitals are doing a more thorough cleaning when it is used for COVID positive patients.

- **Ambulance Patient Off-Load Times (APOT) Report (January 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021)**

Laurent Repass reported that the APOT report includes APOT data for the period of January 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021. There was little change in APOT times throughout the year, however in December and January when APOT times were much higher.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **COVID-19**

Dr. Schultz reported that there were over 100 long term care and skilled nursing facilities who reported a COVID outbreak. At this time, only five facilities that have reported a COVID outbreak. Dr. Grewal reported on the number of COVID variants and on the effectiveness of the vaccine on the variants. Kristin Thompson reported that you are able to select which vaccine you wish to have administered.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- **OCEMS Policy/Procedure #310.96: Guidelines for Diversion Status and APOT Standard**

The purpose of this policy was to establish a standard APOT time of 30 minutes that hospitals are expected to meet. All specialties centers will be allowed to go on diversion (including CCERCs, Stroke Neurology Receiving Centers). Facilities not meeting the standard will not be penalized, however, not meeting a standard will be noted when their designation status is reviewed. At some time in the future, there may be penalties issued.

- **OCEMS Policy/Procedure #310.00: ALS Transport Criteria**

Dr. Schultz outlined the updates to this policy. Api Weinert, from Laguna Beach Fire Department, asked if any analysis has been done on the number of BLS patients transported by helicopter for extrication purposes. Dr. Schultz replied that an analysis on this data have been performed, however, this policy does not affect BLS patients being extricated via helicopter.

- **OCEMS Policy/Procedure #330.15: A:S Treatment Without Base Hospital Contact**

Dr. Schultz outlined the updates to this policy included housekeeping updates to clarify concerns that needed to be addressed.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Patrick Powers asked that this Committee consider discussing the use of the Be Well program to allow law enforcement to pick up behavioral health patients to relieve the stress on the EMS system.

VIII. ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Base Hospital Coordinators**

Ruth Clark reported that the Base Hospital Coordinators will be hosting their next NO FEAR conference virtually with a focus on pediatrics on May 4, 2021 and it will be for 3½ hours of continuing education. The base hospitals are working in conjunction with the stroke-neuro receiving centers to ask an additional three questions to obtain a LAM score for the stroke centers to reference. The group has been working on their Base AMA QI project for the past six months and just completed a hypoxic QI study with the EMS Coordinators CQI Committee.

- **Orange County Fire Chiefs EMS**

No report.

IX. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

X. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.