



# EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE



## REGULAR MEETING

Friday, October 9, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.

**Location: Via Zoom**

## M I N U T E S

MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE			
<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>	<u>HEALTH CARE AGENCY STAFF</u>	
Michael S. Ritter, MD	– Orange County Medical Assn. (SOCEP)	Carl H. Schultz, MD	– EMS Medical Director
Arturo Pedroza	– Board of Supervisors-First District	Gagandeep Grewal, MD	– Associate EMS Medical Director
Jeffrey Barke, MD (excused)	– Board of Supervisors-Second District	Tammi McConnell, MSN	– EMS Director
Timothy Munzing, MD	– Board of Supervisors-Third District	Steve Thronson	– Deputy Agency Director. R/MHS
Luis Estevez	– Board of Supervisors-Fourth District	Sam Stratton, MD, MPH	– EMS Physician Researcher
Ted Heyming, MD	– Board of Supervisors-Fifth District	Mark Chew, Pharm.D.	– Chief Pharmacist
Dean Grose	– City Selection Committee	Danielle Ogaz	– EMS Systems & Standards Chief
Karen Sharp, RN	– Hospital Association of S. California	Adrian Rodriguez	– EMS Ambulance Performance Chief
Trez Gutierrez, RN	– Orange Coast Emergency Nurses Assn.	Laurent Repass, NREMT-P	– EMS Information Systems Chief
Chief Adam Loeser	– Orange County Fire Chiefs Assn.	Meng Chung, EMT-P	– BLS Coordinator
David Gibbs, MD	– Orange County Medical Assn.	Alison Kelman	– Cities Readiness Coordinator
Michael Killebrew	– Orange County City Managers Assn.	Mike Chiles	– Program Super. II, Communications
		Andrew Roberts	– EMS Specialist
		Erica Moojen	– EMS Office Supervisor
		Eileen Endo	– Office Specialist
		Lisa Wilson	– Information Processing Technician
GUESTS PRESENT			
Jordan Abushawish	– Providence St. Joseph	Janet Hewson, RN	– Fountain Valley Hospital
Whitney Ayers	– Hospital Association of S. California	Adriana Nieto	–
Mary Birkle, RN	– Mission Hospital	Patrick Powers, EMT-P	– City of Placentia
Randy Black	– Orange County Fire Authority	Rhonda Rosati, RN	– Brea/Fullerton Fire Department
Ryan Creager	– Mercy Air Service, Inc.	Tetsuya Takeuchi, MD	– Mission Hospital
Phil Davis	– Emergency Ambulance Service	Michael Tou	– Providence St. Joseph
Chad Druten	– Emergency Ambulance Service	Robert Viera	– Care Ambulance Service
Larry Grihalva, MICP	– Costa Mesa Fire Department	Bill Weston	– Care Ambulance Service

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Ritter thanked all health care personnel (hospitals, fire, ambulance service, etc.) for their hard work during the current pandemic.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Dr. Michael Ritter, EMCC Chair, representing the Orange County Medical Association (SOCEP) was inadvertently omitted from the roster of attendees from the July 10, 2020 minutes. Minutes from the July 10, 2020 were approved with the correction noted.*

#### **IV. OCEMS REPORT**

- **Medical Director's Report**

Dr. Schultz reported that revisions to Orange County's field procedures are posted to the OCEMS Website. The State EMS Authority has given approval for paramedics to perform vaccinations for influenza. A determination to allow paramedics to administer COVID-19 vaccinations will be addressed once the vaccine becomes available. Anaheim and Huntington Beach Fire Department paramedics have already been approved to perform vaccinations. Tammi McConnell reported that other local EMS systems plan to seek approval for their county fire departments to use paramedics to vaccinate their staff when the COVID-19 vaccine becomes available. Chief Loeser reported that the Orange County fire chiefs have expressed interest in allowing individual fire departments to administer the vaccine.

The State of California has temporarily closed Fairview State Hospital as an alternative care site to care for COVID-19 patients in Southern California. It can be reopened in 72 hours should the need arise.

Dr. Schultz reported that no major medical issues have arisen since the City of Placentia's transition from the Orange County Fire Authority.

- **Orange County EMS Report**

Ms. McConnell reported that Orange County EMS staff time have been dedicated to the Health Care Agency Operations Center in managing COVID-19 requests.

- **Health Emergency Management Report**

Ms. McConnell reported that Emergency Medical Services has submitted a request to the Board of Supervisors for hospitals to receive approximately \$30 million in reimbursement due to the COVID-19 response. Funding to hospitals is based upon their licensed beds and the COVID burden over a 10-day period during the height of the pandemic. The Health Care Agency will also be allocating funds to skilled nursing facilities based on the supplies they have purchased.

- **Hospital Diversion Report (January 1 to September 30, 2020)**

Attached to the agenda is the Hospital Diversion Report for the period of January 1 to September 30, 2020. Dr. Schultz reported that no radical changes in diversion hours are noted. Diversion is generally higher on Mondays than at any other day of the week.

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

Attached to the agenda is the Ambulance Patient Off-Load Time (APOT) Report for the period of July 1 to August 31, 2020. Dr. Schultz reported that Orange County EMS intends to establish a standard APOT time in the near future.

- **9-1-1 Emergency Ambulance Transportation Contract Performance (FY 2019-2020 Annual Report)**

Attached to the agenda is the FY 2019-2020 Annual Report for 9-1-1 Emergency Ambulance Transportation Contract Performance. Dr. Ritter stated that he had noticed that Care Ambulances in South County have added the Falck name to the units. Mr. Rodriguez reported that Care Ambulance had been purchased by Falck and they are slowly integrating the name on their units.

- **EMCC Correspondence**

Attached to the agenda is a letter and final report addressed to the Orange County Fire Authority Board of Directors from the City of Placentia. Luis Estevez from the City of Placentia, representing the Fourth District, reported that the City of Placentia established their own fire agency and contracted with Lynch

Ambulance to respond to its emergency calls effective July 1, 2020. The statistics in the report include data from the first two to three months collected regarding medical aid calls.

**V. EMCC ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE AND ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS**

• **Facilities Advisory Committee (September 8, 2020 meeting)**

Dr. Schultz reported that the American College of Surgeons and all licensing verification entities have extended the trauma center verifications (ACS) and hospital verifications for one year. Due to these extensions, Orange County EMS has elected to do the same for all specialty center re-designations in Orange County.

• **County Paramedic Advisory Committee (September 9, 2020 meeting)**

Dr. Schultz reported that this Committee discussed the coverage for patients with Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms and the best way to care for these patients.

• **Transportation Advisory Committee (October 7, 2020)**

Dr. Schultz reported that this Committee addressed the scheduling of these meetings and its inability to report a timely report to the Emergency Medical Care Committee. Their meetings will be switched to the first Wednesday quarterly (January, April, July, and October). In addition, Jim Karras, the current Chair of the Transportation Advisory Committee, has decided to step down from his position allowing someone else to serve as Chair. Mr. Karras recommended that Rob Viera serve as Chair of the Committee and Orange County EMS is seeking approval from the Emergency Medical Care Committee to appoint Mr. Viera as Chair.

*The Emergency Medical Care Committee approved the recommendation that Rob Viera serve as the new Chair of the Transportation Advisory Committee effective January 1, 2021.*

**VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*None.*

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

• **Disaster Resource Centers**

Orange County EMS is developing disaster resource centers to focus on support hospitals in the case of a disaster. Orange County would like to initially have the trauma centers be designated as a disaster resource center who could then distribute resources to surrounding hospitals. Currently, the trauma centers are evenly distributed throughout the County. Currently, this policy is out for 50-day public comment. Dr. Tetsuya Takeuchi asked if another coordinator, other than the trauma program manager, may be used as a coordinator. Since the American College of Surgeons would like the trauma program manager to concentrate solely on the trauma program without any other distraction.

• **Orange County Ambulance Ordinance Update**

Mr. Rodriguez reported that Orange County EMS is revising their ambulance ordinance which was last approved in 1985. He outlined the revisions changes to update the Ordinance. Any comments/suggestions to revise the ordinance may be sent to Adrian Rodriguez at [arodriguez@ochca.com](mailto:arodriguez@ochca.com). Ms. McConnell reported that several workgroups were formed to discuss revisions. She provided background information on the discussions that have taken place in the last several years. It is anticipated that the Board will approve the amendments in December, 2020. Chief Loeser reported that the Orange County Fire Chiefs have discussed the Ordinance and have suggestions to streamline the language.

**III. MEMBER COMMENTS**

*No member comments were received.*

**IX. PUBLIC FORUM**

*No public comments from members were received.*

**X. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 15, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. Due to the current pandemic, the meeting may be held via Zoom videoconferencing.