EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE

Regular EMCC Meeting:
Friday, June 22, 2012 – 9:00 a.m.
Location: 405 W. Fifth Street – Conference Room 433
Santa Ana, CA 92705

MINUTES

MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS	CATEGORY REPRESENTED
☐ Chan Le Nguyen, MD	- Board of Supervisors, First District
☒ Patrick Powers	- Board of Supervisors, Second District
☒ Nick Anas, MD	- Board of Supervisors, Third District
☒ Jon Gilwee	- Board of Supervisors, Fourth District
☐ vacant	- Board of Supervisors, Fifth District
☒ Monica Ruzich	- American Red Cross, OC Chapter
☒ Julie Wanstreet, RN	- Orange Coast Emergency Nurses Assn.
☒ Mary Botticella	- Hospital Association of So. Calif.
☒ Michelle Tom, MD	- Society of OC Emergency Physicians
☒ Philip Davis	- Ambulance Association of OC
☒ Steve Nagel	- League of California Cities
☒ Peter Bastone	- OC Business Council
☐ Mark Pulone	- OC City Managers Association
☒ Chief Kris Head	- OC Fire Chiefs Association
☐ Bryan Hoynak, MD	- OC Medical Association
☐ Chief Paul Henisey	- OC Police Chiefs/Sheriffs Assn.
☐ vacant	- OC Senior Citizens Advisory Council

HDM STAFF	REPRESENTING
Sam Stratton, MD	EMS Medical Director
Tammi McConnell, RN	EMS Program Manager
Eric Lowman	HDM Preparedness Mgr.
Ken Miller, MD	EMS Asst. Medical Director
Mike Noone	EMS BLS Coordinator
Kathy Hiller	EMS Office Supervisor
Others Present	
Ron Norby	HCA/Medical Services
Holly Veale	HCA/Medical Services
Chief Scott Brown	OCFA
Bill Weston	Care Ambulance
Phil Robinson	Doctor's Ambulance
Walt Lynch	Lynch Ambulance
Walter Garcia	Medix Ambulance
Gio Chiarella	Shoreline Ambulance
Jim Ruane	OCFA
Carla Schneider	Hoag
Patti Lash	Hoag
Tom Coppolino	Fountain Valley Fire
Kristin Thompson	Anaheim Fire
Jim Ignacio	JVI Consulting, LLC
Kathy Robidoux	Los Alamitos Medical Ctr.
Stephen Wentrobs	public
Jeanne Reinhardt	Smith Public Affairs
Dave Rose	Fire Association

1. **EMCC MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**
Meeting called to order by Jon Gilwee, Chair.

2. **INTRODUCTIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
MSC **The April 27, 2012 minutes were approved.**

4. **OCEMS REPORT / CORRESPONDENCE**

Dr. Stratton reported on the memo distributed to the Base Hospital Coordinators and Fire EMS Coordinators regarding the process for requesting authorization for emergency 30-day extension for expiration of selected field medications due to the nationwide shortage of those drugs.

OC-MEDS Update: *reported by Tammi McConnell*

Laurent Repass provided a monthly progress report on OC-MEDS that is available on the EMS website. Two ambulance companies, ten fire departments and all 25 paramedic receiving

centers have been issued OC-MEDS accounts and have been testing the system for electronic records. Several field providers have been using the electronic PCR software and hardware. There are currently 1500 patients in the system for the testing phase. Trainings have been provided by Laurent Repass and EMS contractor Ruth Grubb. EMS has hired a contractor to develop the licensing module for the paper based licensing activities for EMT certification, EMT accreditations, paramedic accreditation, and MICN authorizations. EMS is working with Image Trend on modules for cardiac and stroke designated patients that will allow the coordinators to match up patients electronically.

Disaster Preparations: *reported by Erik Lowman*

Orange County's score on the CDC graded Cities Readiness Initiative Technical Assistance Review was 100%, one of only five jurisdictions west of the Mississippi to receive a perfect score. We are finalizing the November after action report for the May Golden Guardian exercise and planning the November statewide exercise, which will be a blackout scenario similar to the power outage in South County, San Diego and Arizona last year.

Hospital Diversion: No report, see attachment 3

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

Policy 777.00 and 778.00

Patrick Powers and Phil Davis recused themselves during this discussion.

Dr. Samuel Stratton provided members the written results from the 50-day public comment period and a summary of the general themes to the responses that were submitted by the public. He then discussed each item on the list with members.

The public reported the following comments on these policies:
Bill Weston commented that his company is opposed to the CCT-P policies and requested that OCEMS wait until the state comes out with the updated regulations on the CCT paramedics.

Kristin Thompson reported her opposition to the CCT-P with her concerns of providing the highest quality of care in the Orange County 9-1-1 system.

Dave Rose reported on his concerns that mistakes will be made by new trained CCT-Ps.

EMCC members made the following comments on these policies:
Julie Wanstreet commented that she has concerns regarding who will have the oversight and decision making; feels that there is a need for this type of service due to the shortage of experienced nurses; and that it is a great idea and can be developed after addressing changes in the scope of practice such as thrombolytics and ventilators.

Peter Bastone commented that we should think outside of the box. There is a nursing shortage; we should look at the scope of practice; and there should be more discussion about the type of patients that will be transported by the CCT-P. This is an opportunity to broaden the scope of practice and he believes there is a need to broaden the scope of transport by ambulances.

Chief Kris Head commented that his concerns included not having enough response data and that the issue seems to be a contract issue, not a shortage of trained staff. OCEMS' shortage of staff would prevent them from regulating interfacility transports.

Chairman Jon Gilwee reported that EMCC would not act on this item at that time and the purpose was to take public and member comments.

Dr. Stratton reported that he would take into consideration the suggestions and comments made at the meeting and, after the revisions are made, will circulate to members for further comments. This will come back to the EMCC for review. The CCT-P is included in the paramedic regulation revisions approved by the State on June 19th, 2012 and will go into effect after signed by the Attorney General. If this policy is enacted, there would be a pilot program for interested transport providers.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

Ground Ambulance Service Basic Life Support (BLS) Rates Adjustment and Advanced Life Support (ALS) Rate – *reported by Tammi McConnell*

In accordance with Orange County Emergency Medical Services, *Orange County Ambulance Rules and Regulations Related to Ground Service Rates Adjustment*, the City Managers, ambulance providers and Fire Chiefs (of cities that adopted the Orange County Ambulance Ordinance) were notified of the proposed basic life support (BLS) rates and Advanced Life Support (ALS) rate. They were invited to provide written or verbal comments for consideration at this meeting. A letter from the City of Cypress was read stating that they do not support the increase.

The methodology utilized by the Board of Supervisors for setting the ground emergency rate on December 13, 2011 calculated the percent increase or decrease in the prior year's LA-Riverside-Orange County "all items" CPI. The proposed rate increase was calculated using this methodology.

Bill Weston commented that in 2007 the Board adopted the BLS rate 150% of "all items" consumer price index (CPI) for LA/ Orange County/Riverside area to offset revenues lost from under insured Medical/Medicare and uninsured patients. The rate was approved in 2008; no rate increase was approved in 2009 or 2010. Because reimbursement rates are so low, local ambulance providers and fire departments are subsidizing insurance companies and EMCC should make a recommendation to Board of Supervisors to follow existing Board policy.

OCFA Chief Scott Brown provided a handout regarding Orange County Fire Authority Pre-Hospital Care Business Model and Orange County Fire Authority Advance Life Support (ALS) / Medical Supplies Fiscal Year 2012/13 Proposed Rates.

MSC **Approve recommended proposed BLS (BLS) Rate Adjustment and Advanced Life Support (ALS) Rate to submit to the Orange County Board of Supervisor for consideration.**
(vote: yes – 9, abstentions - 2)

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

A. Facilities Advisory Committee - *reported by Tammi McConnell*
The committee discussed the IFT policy, revisions to policy 600.00 Paramedic Receiving Center Criteria; and adding spoke hospitals and hypothermia to policy 630.00 Cardiovascular Receiving Center Criteria.

B. County Paramedic Advisory Committee - *reported by Dr. Samuel Stratton*
Committee discussed the policies 777.00 and 778.00

C. Education & Training Advisory Committee: May meeting – *reported by Mike Noone*
Discussed two policies, spinal immobilization procedure and equipment inventories on ambulances.

D. Transportation Advisory Committee: *reported by Mike Noone*
No meeting, will meet in July.

E. Trauma Operations Committee – *reported by Tammi McConnell*
No meeting. UCI had their Trauma Survey by the American College of Surgeons on June 12 and 13th, 2012.

F. Quality Assurance Board – No meeting

8. **MEMBER COMMENTS**
There was a request to have OCEMS give a presentation on the RFP process for ambulance companies at the next meeting.

Mike Noone reported on "Sidewalk CPR" and thanked all who supported it. 900 people were trained in CPR compressions.

Monica Ruzich reported the Health Disaster Summit was outstanding.

Patrick Powers requested OCEMS to provide at the next Transportation Advisory meeting on how many ambulance providers in Orange County are currently licensed and how many have been licensed in the past 24 months by OCEMS.

9. **PUBLIC FORUM** (non-agendized)
Orange County Fire Authority provided members a five minute video on "Orange County Fire Authority Pre-Hospital Care Business Model".

10. **NEXT Meeting** – August 24, 2012, 9:00 a.m.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

ksh: EMCC min (6-22-12)