



EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting

Friday, June 28, 2013 – 9:00 a.m.

**Location: Hall of Administration: Commission Hearing Room
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd, Santa Ana, CA 92701**

MINUTES

MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS

- vacant
- Patrick Powers
- Nick Anas, MD
- Jon Gilwee
- vacant
- Monica Ruzich
- Julie Wanstreet, RN
- Kenneth McFarland
- Michelle Tom, MD
- Philip Davis
- Brad Reese
- Margie Harrier
- vacant
- Chief Wolfgang Knabe
- Bryan Hoynak, MD
- Chief Paul Henisey
- vacant

CATEGORY REPRESENTED

- Board of Supervisors, First District
- Board of Supervisors, Second District
- Board of Supervisors, Third District
- Board of Supervisors, Fourth District
- Board of Supervisors, Fifth District
- American Red Cross, OC Chapter
- Orange Coast Emergency Nurses Assn.
- Hospital Association of So. Calif.
- Society of OC Emergency Physicians
- Ambulance Association of OC
- League of California Cities
- OC Business Council
- OC City Managers Association
- OC Fire Chiefs Association
- OC Medical Association
- OC Police Chiefs/Sheriffs Assn.
- OC Senior Citizens Advisory Council

HCA STAFF

- Holly Veale
- Lydia Mikhail
- Sam Stratton, MD
- Ken Miller, MD
- Tammi McConnell, RN
- Mike Delaby, RN
- Jane Elder, RN
- Mike Noone, NREMT-P
- Vicki Sweet, RN
- Erica Moojen
- Jody Nguyen
- Mark Chew

REPRESENTING

- Medical Services
- Division Manager
- EMS Medical Director
- EMS Assistant Med Director
- EMS Program Manager
- EMS Facilities Coordinator
- EMS Coordinator (ALS)
- EMS Coordinator (BLS)
- EMS CQI Liaison
- EMS Office Supervisor
- HDM Mgr - HPP
- OCHCA

GUESTS PRESENT

- Baryic Hunter, EMT-P
- Dave Rose, EMT-P
- Jim Ruane
- Joelle Samsel, RN
- Tim Steging, EMT-P
- Bill Weston

REPRESENTING

- Orange County Fire Authority
- Orange County Fire Authority
- Orange County Fire Authority
- Anaheim Fire Department
- Orange County Fire Authority
- Care Ambulance Service

1. **C ALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by Jon Gilwee, Chair

2. **INTRODUCTIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Fire Chief Wolfgang Knabe and Kenneth McFarland were welcomed as new members.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MSC: April 26, 2013 minutes were approved.

4. **OCEMS REPORT / CORRESPONDENCE**

Informational item only

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

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Closure of Emergency Services: Anaheim General Hospital: Final Report

Informational item only

B. Mandatory Field Observations for Mobile Intensive Care Nurses (MICN)

MSC: **Accept CPAC and FAC reports that recommend mandatory eight hour field observations for initial MICN authorizations; optional observations for reauthorizations; revise current policy to reflect such change.**

Monica Ruzich – Oral comment (1) inquiring if in recommending that the first eight hours are mandatory, how was the concern for the workman’s compensation addressed for that initial period? Dr. Stratton responded that the liability was not addressed. Oral comment (2) Is this something that the MICN’s employer would cover as part of their employment? Dr. Stratton responded that the Base Hospital as the employer would have the liability.

C. Ground Ambulance Services Basic Life Support (BLS) Rates Adjustment and Advanced Life Support (ALS) Rate

MSC: **Endorse proposed FY 13/14 ground emergency ambulance services BLS rates adjustment & OCFA paramedic assessment & transport fee.**

Public Presenter: Bill Weston, Director of Ambulance Operations at Care Ambulance & Ambulance Association President – oral comment regarding rate adjustment

Public Presenter: Jim Ruane, Finance Manager & Auditor, OCFA – oral comment regarding rate adjustment

D. Interfacility Transport Advanced Life Support (IFT-ALS) Pilot

MSC: **Defer item; evaluate issues raised by speakers; reform continuation of pilot and present findings at next EMCC meeting.**

Kenneth McFarland – Oral comment seeking clarification of whose decision it is to call for IFT-ALS service. Dr. Stratton responded that the call for service is initiated by a health professional such as, an MD, Home Health Nurse or Skilled Nursing Facility Nurse.

Chief Knabe – Oral comment (1) provided concerns from Fire Chief perspective relating to dispatching standards and asked if the ambulance company is following specific dispatch criteria. Dr. Stratton responded that within this pilot, the ambulance company dispatchers are trained under a medical priority dispatch program (Clawson) and the training includes a two phase process for identifying patients meeting 9-1-1 criteria. First, at the point of dispatch, calls defined by OCEMS as requiring 9-1-1 are to be turned over to the 9-1-1 system. The caller is advised to hang up and call 9-1-1. Secondly, if an IFT-ALS paramedic arrives on scene and the case requires base contact, the field team must access 9-1-1. Oral comment (2) questioned potentiality of downgrading IFT-ALS staffing from two paramedics to one emergency medical technician (EMT) and one paramedic. Dr. Stratton responded that in a year there is potential for a one EMT, one paramedic team (also known as a one-and-one system) to be considered under a different pilot. Oral comment (3) following public speakers, acknowledging confusion as to where transports are occurring; specific patient details; clarification of dispatch criteria; and possible consideration that the IFT-ALS service occur between hospitals as an alternative to the current program.

Chief Paul Henisey – Oral comment seeking clarification of public comment stating that Fire Chiefs are opposed to the original motion. Chief Knabe responded that the opposition was based upon looking at the items identified by the speakers.

Monica Ruzich – Oral comment provided that the purpose of a pilot study is to evaluate and bring out troublesome items for discussion. This demonstrates a successful outcome of the pilot. Further, suggested that the items brought up by the speakers be addressed.

Dr. Michelle Tom – Oral comment (1) provided that as an Emergency Room Physician responsible for medically screening, treating and providing a disposition (discharge, hospital admission, transfer to skilled facility, etc.), it is not uncommon to have two to four hour patient wait times thus creating a disservice to all patients. Secondly, supportive of implementing of a system to transport patients so that they can receive the care that they need while helping all others. Oral comment (2) clarified public speaker comments about who calls for service. Dr. Tom stated that it is a Medical Doctor, either in the ER or skilled facility determining transport appropriateness. The MD is responsible for that decision.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Hospital Designations

MSC: Approve report; attachment #7

- B. Reactivation of Advanced Life Support Unit – Anaheim Fire Department

MSC: Approve report; attachment #7b

- C. Redeployment Model – Costa Mesa Fire Department

MSC: Approve report; attachment #7c

Monica Ruzich – Oral comment asking what is the ratio of paramedic units to population in Costa Mesa. Dr. Stratton commented that there approximately 1 per 25,000. The County requires 1 per 64,000 as a minimum.

8. **MEMBER COMMENTS**

Paul Henisey – Looks forward to next meetings discussion about IFT-ALS and added that as a member, it is important to hear the benefits and positive aspects in order to better understand the issue.

Kenneth McFarland – Importance for community to understand that the EMS facility designation process is a healthy, natural and important practice for hospitals. to be reviewed. It is a proactive exercise to test the facilities readiness and despite their being conditions for the hospitals, it is a necessary process to maintain readiness. Commended program for their thorough reviews that help to keep the ER's well and orderly.

Brad Reese – Looks forward to IFT-ALS report related to the financial and facility items.

Jon Gilwee – Recognized and thanked Julie Wanstreet for her member service.

Monica Ruzich – Acknowledged that whole nation is struggling with costs. Orange County has good fortune to have EMS system. It's Important for public sake to be thorough in all of the reviews. . Requested clarification about concerns raised by Anaheim Fire related to transport differences between 9-1-1 system and skilled facilities as opposed to hospital to hospital transports.

Chief Knabe – Reiterated what Monica said and added that Orange County has a quality system and although we may not all agree, one cannot say that their point was not considered. Moving forward, if questions can be answered at the next meeting, data and process reviewed, committee may reach conclusion.

9. **PUBLIC FORUM** (non-agenized)

Dave Rose – Oral comment regarding IFT Pilot program

Baryic Hunter – Oral comment regarding IFT Pilot program

Tim Steging – Oral comment regarding IFT Pilot program

Joelle Samsel – Oral comment regarding IFT Pilot program

10. **NEXT MEETING** - August 23, 2013
Commission Hearing Room - 333 W. Santa Ana Blvd, Santa Ana 92701

11. **ADJOURNMENT**