



EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE



Regular Meeting

Friday, April 7, 2017 – 9:00 am

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

MINUTES

MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS

- Ron Blaul (excused)
- Jinha M. Park, MD, Ph.D.
- Nick Anas, MD
- Timothy Greco, MD
- Michael Ritter, MD
- James Karras
- Letitia Clark
- Trez Gutierrez, RN
- Lindley Garcia, RN
- Chief Wolfgang Knabe
- Rebecca Gomez
- Vacant
- Vacant
- Vacant
- Vacant
- Vacant
- 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
- Ambulance Association of OC
- City Selection Committee
- Orange Coast Emergency Nurses Assn.
- Orange County Business Council
- Orange County Fire Chiefs Association
- Orange County Senior Citizens Advisory Council
- American Red Cross, OC Chapter
- Hospital Association of Southern California
- OC City Managers Association
- Orange County Medical Association
- Orange County Police Chiefs/Sheriffs Assn.
- Society of OC Emergency Physicians

HEALTH CARE AGENCY STAFF

- Sam Stratton, MD
- Tammi McConnell, MSN, RN
- Richard Sanchez
- Steve Thronson
- Denise Fennessy
- Philip Froman, MD
- Mike Delaby, MSN, RN,
- Adrian Rodriguez
- Erica Moojen
- Eileen Endo
- EMS Medical Director
- EMS Administrator
- Health Care Agency Assistant Director
- Deputy Agency Director, Regulatory/MS
- Chief of Operations, Regulatory/MS
- EMS Physician Specialist
- EMS Systems & Standards Chief
- EMS Performance Chief
- EMS Office Supervisor
- Office Specialist

GUESTS

- Ryan Creager
- Chad Druten
- Tina Heinemann, RN
- Karen Sharp, RN
- Bill Weston
- Mercy Air Service
- Emergency Ambulance Service
- Lynch Ambulance Service
- Saddleback Memorial Medical Center
- Care Ambulance Service

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Chief Wolfgang Knabe.

II. INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Tammi McConnell introduced Adrian Rodriguez who is the new EMS Performance Chief. He will be monitoring the performance of ambulance service providers and continuing education providers.
- Councilmember Letitia Clark, City of Tustin, was introduced as the new representative for the City Selection Committee.
- Dr. Stratton presented Dr. Nick Anas with a Certificate of Appreciation for his contributions and service to the Emergency Medical Care Committee as the representative for the third district of the Board of Supervisors. The Orange County Medical Association has made the recommendation that Dr. Anas serve as the organization's representative beginning July 1, 2017.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the January 6, 2017 Emergency Medical Care Committee meeting were approved as submitted.
(Moved: Dr. Ritter; Seconded: Mr. Karras)

IV. OCEMS REPORT / CORRESPONDENCE

- **Medical Director's Report:** – Dr. Stratton reporting:
Orange County EMS has released a number of revised standing orders and policies and procedures that became effective on April 1, 2017. A list of the revisions may be found under correspondence (see Attachment #4).

- **Emergency Ambulance Transportation Contract Performance Report: Fiscal Year 16-17 Mid-Year Report:** Adrian Rodriguez presented the FY 2016-17 Mid-Year Report on the 9-1-1 Emergency Ambulance Transportation contract for the period of July 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016 for the contractual response times for each of the five exclusive operating areas (Regions A – E) as seen in attachment #2. This ambulance activity report has also been posted to the OCEMS Website under the EMS Ambulance Performance Section.
- **OC-MEDS Report:** Tammi McConnell presented the OC-MEDS report which included the NEMSIS 3.4 compliance by agency; and a pilot program conducted by Newport Beach Fire Department in conjunction with Hoag Memorial Hospital in the bi-directional exchange of health information for patients seen in the field. This ambulance activity report has also been posted to the OCEMS Website under the EMS Ambulance Performance Section.
- **EMCC Correspondence:** Dr. Stratton reported on the correspondence included in the agenda packet. Correspondence includes the letter from EMCC to the Board of Supervisors regarding the Health Care Agency proposed EMS provider fees; the announcement of the new EMS Performance Chief; changes made to the standing orders; the approval of the trauma plan; the announcement of the revision to the EMS fees; a letter sent to the base hospitals requesting for ongoing base hospital operation equipment; the release of a new draft policy for stroke ready hospitals for 50-day public comment; a list of appointments and reappointments for this committee.

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

Dr. Stratton reported on items discussed at the Facilities Advisory and County Paramedic Advisory Committees. Among the discussions that had taken place was the issue of wall-time. Chief Knabe asked whether a committee has been formed to address this issue and also asked about the transport of behavioral health patients. Dr. Stratton indicated that the Facilities Advisory Subcommittee would be the most appropriate subcommittee to address this issue. He also outlined the guidelines used for the non-emergency transport of behavioral health patients. Jim Karras provided a report on the items discussed at the Transportation Advisory Committee.

MSC: *The Emergency Medical Care Committee recommended that the Facilities Advisory Subcommittee to address the issue of wall-time.*

VI. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

VII. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Cardiovascular Receiving Center System Report

Dr. Stratton presented a report of the Orange County Cardiovascular (STEMI) System report. The report included the demographics; system performance measures and the transmission of field ECGs to cardiovascular receiving centers. He reported that a successful STEMI Summit was held last week. Committee members asked about educating women on symptoms of heart attack and stroke.

B. Appointment of EMCC Calendar Year 2017 Slate of Officers

A conference call with the nomination committee was held and the nomination committee has recommended that Dr. Michael Ritter to serve as Chair and Ron Blaul to serve as Vice Chair.

MSC: *The Emergency Medical Care Committee appointed Michael Ritter, MD to serve as Chair and Ron Blaul, to serve as Vice Chair.*

A. Emergency Receiving Center/Specialty Receiving Center Designation

Attached to the packet are the Summary Reports for hospital designations presented to the Facilities Advisory Committee on January 10, 2017 and March 21, 2017. The Facilities Advisory Committee has recommended that the Emergency Medical Care Committee approve the re-designation of Hoag Hospital-Irvine; Kaiser Hospital-Anaheim;

Mission Hospital Laguna Beach; Orange Coast Memorial Medical Center; and West Anaheim Medical Center as outlined in the January 10, 2017 report. In addition, they have recommended that the Committee approve the conditional designation for Foothill Regional Medical Center for twelve months as outlined in the March 21, 2017 report.

Dr. Stratton reported that a site survey and assessment of the capabilities of each facility. Mike Delaby reported there are training and other requirements that must be met. Once these conditions are met, Orange County EMS will evaluate and perform a site survey be performed if necessary.

MSC: *The Emergency Medical Care Committee recommended the re-designation of Hoag Hospital-Irvine as an Emergency Receiving Center and Cardiovascular Receiving Center; Kaiser Hospital-Anaheim as an Emergency Receiving Center; Mission Hospital Laguna Beach as an Emergency Receiving Center; Orange Coast Memorial Medical Center as an Emergency Receiving Center and Cardiovascular Receiving Center; and West Anaheim Medical Center as an Emergency Receiving Center and Cardiovascular Receiving Center for a period of three years (November 2016 to December 2019) as recommended by the Facilities Advisory Subcommittee on January 10, 2017.*

MSC: *The Emergency Medical Care Committee recommended the conditional designation for Foothill Regional Medical Center as an Emergency Receiving Center for a period of twelve months as recommended by the Facilities Advisory Subcommittee on March 21, 2017.*

B. Ground Ambulance Service Rate Adjustment

Ms. McConnell provided background information on the history of previous rate adjustments. Bill Weston representing the Ambulance Association of Orange County presented the Ambulance Association's proposed request in regard to a rate increase. This proposal takes into consider the effects of minimum wage; the Health Care Agency's Epidemiology's recommendation that a disposable blanket, sheet, and pillow case be used for each patient to prevent bacterial infections; and the incorporation of a \$66.00 medical supply reimbursement rate into either the BLS base rate or into the ALS base rate. The Ambulance Association is requesting that the BLS emergency base rate be increased by 14% and to increase the mileage, oxygen, standby and expendable supply rates by 1.9% for the remainder 2017 and increase the BLS emergency base rate due to the effects of minimum wage. It is also requesting a 4% increase in the BLS emergency base rate for 2018 (January 1 to December 31) and a 1.9% increase to the mileage, oxygen, standby and expendable supply rates. In addition, the Ambulance Association requests that EOA contractors be required to include effect of minimum wage increase in annual CPA audits.

Mr. Weston addressed questions and concerns expressed by Committee members. Dr. Ritter asked about the current use of sheets and blankets. He expressed concerns about ambulance staff taking hospital sheets and blankets. Dr. Stratton reported that the disposable packet meets Orange County EMS criteria. Both Mr. Weston and Jim Karras requested that hospitals report to the ambulance providers the taking of hospital sheets and blankets. Ms. Clark asked whether the EMTs live in the community in which they hold their jobs. Mr. Weston replied that EMTs generally live in the community in which they work (for example, employees stationed in north Orange County generally live in the area in which they work).

Ms. McConnell reported that while the Health Care Agency supports an increase due to the effects of minimum wage and the Epidemiology recommendation in the use of disposable sheets. However, the Health Care Agency cannot support the \$66.00 medical supply rate. However, Orange County EMS is encouraging the Ambulance Association to continue talking with the fire agencies to find another way to recoup the funding. The Health Care Agency proposes that the BLS emergency base rate be increased by 6.7% and to increase the mileage, oxygen, standby and expendable supply rates by 1.9% for the remainder 2017 and increase the BLS emergency base rate due to the effects of minimum wage. It is also requesting a 5% increase in the BLS emergency base rate for 2018 (January 1 to December 31) and a 1.9% increase to the mileage, oxygen, standby and expendable supply rates for the same period.

Committee members discussed the difficulties in the reimbursement of supplies and who would pay for these supplies.

MSC: *The Emergency Medical Care Committee supports a rate increase of 6.7% to the BLS Emergency Base Rate to include the effects of minimum wage and the recommendation made by the Health Care Agency Epidemiology to use disposable sheets, blankets, and pillows to reduce bacterial infections and a 1.9% increase to mileage, oxygen, standby, and expendable supply rates for the period of July 1 to December 31, 2017.*

The Emergency Medical Care Committee supports a rate increase of 5% to the BLS Emergency Base Rate to include the effects of minimum wage and a 1.9% increase to mileage, oxygen, standby, and expendable supply rates for calendar year 2018.

The Emergency Medical Care Committee recommends that Orange County EMS continues to meet with stakeholders on the \$66.00 medical supply rate.

The Emergency Medical Care Committee supports the recommendation that the exclusive operating areas (EOA) contractors include the effect of minimum wage increases in annual CPA audits due as required under the 9-1-1 Emergency Ambulance Transportation agreements.

The Emergency Medical Care Committee recommends that the Transportation Advisory Committee look at the issue regarding the taking of hospital linens (sheets).

VIII. **OTHER BUSINESS**

VIII. **MEMBER COMMENTS**

Trez Gutierrez: Asked about the appropriate restraint of pediatric patients in the back of ambulances. Mr. Weston replied that this issue has been explored in previous years; however, there is no solution for pediatric patients under the age of five years of age.

Chief Knabe: Thanked Dr. Stratton, Tammi McConnell and staff on the support provided during his service as Chair of the committee.

IX. **PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

X. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 7, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

XI. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.