



# EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE



## REGULAR MEETING

Friday, January 5, 2018 – 9:00 am

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

## MINUTES

### MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE

#### MEMBERS

- Arturo Pedroza
- Jinha M. Park, MD, Ph.D.
- Vacant
- Timothy Greco, MD
- Michael Ritter, MD
- James Karras
- Linda Voss
- Letitia Clark
- Karen Sharp, RN
- Trez Gutierrez, RN (*excused*)
- Lindley Garcia, RN
- Chief Wolfgang Knabe
- Nick Anas, MD
- Rebecca Gomez
- Vacant
- Vacant

#### CATEGORY REPRESENTED

- Board of Supervisors, First District
- Board of Supervisors, Second District (*excused*)
- Board of Supervisors, Third District
- Board of Supervisors, Fourth District (*excused*)
- Board of Supervisors, Fifth District
- Ambulance Association of Orange County
- American Red Cross (*excused*)
- City Selection Committee (*excused*)
- Hospital Association of Southern California
- Orange Coast Emergency Nurses Association
- Orange County Business Council (*excused*)
- Orange County Fire Chiefs Association
- Orange County Medical Association
- Orange County Senior Citizens Advisory Council
- Orange County Police Chiefs/Sheriffs Association
- Society of Orange County Emergency Physicians

#### HEALTH CARE AGENCY STAFF

- Sam Stratton, MD, MPH
- Tammi McConnell, MSN, RN
- Carl Schultz, MD
- Steve Thronson
- Mike De Laby, MSN, RN
- Adrian Rodriguez
- Vicki Sweet, RN
- EMS Medical Director
- EMS Administrator
- Associate EMS Medical Director
- Deputy Agency Director, Regulatory/MHS
- Assistant EMS Administrator
- EMS Performance Chief
- ALS Program Coordinator

#### GUESTS PRESENT

- Whitney Ayers
- Ruth Clark, RN
- Laura Cross, RN
- Aaron Oshima
- Patrick Powers
- Stephen Wontrobski

#### REPRESENTATIVES

- Hospital Association of Southern California
- Orange County Global Medical Center
- Mission Hospital
- Mercy Air Service
- Horizon Ambulance Service
- Resident of Mission Viejo

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **II. INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Tammi McConnell introduced Dr. Carl Schultz, who was hired as the Associate EMS Medical Director and announced that Mike De Laby, RN was promoted to the position of Assistant EMS Administrator in December.

### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the October 6, 2017 Emergency Medical Care Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

### **IV. OCEMS REPORT / CORRESPONDENCE**

#### • **Medical Director's Report:**

– *Dr. Stratton reporting:*

Orange County EMS has received a number of complaints from 9-1-1 providers that they are asked to perform interfacility transports, pulling units out of service for up to 90 minutes. In many cases, these patients may be transported using IFT-ALS providers. In 2017, there were approximately 10,000 patients transported via IFT-ALS. A memo will be released outlining the appropriate use of 9-1-1 provider transports.

Children's Hospital of Orange County will undergo verification as a Level II pediatric trauma center by the American College of Surgeons on January 8-9, 2018.

- **Orange County Hospital Diversion Report: January 1 to December 31, 2017:** Mike De Laby provided a report on Orange County Hospital Diversion Data as seen in Attachment #2.
- **Emergency Ambulance Transportation Contract Performance Report: Fiscal Year 16-17 Mid-Year Report:** Adrian Rodriguez presented the FY 2017-18 First Quarter Report on the 9-1-1 Emergency Ambulance Transportation contract for the period of July 1 to September 30, 2017 for the contractual response times for each of the five exclusive operating areas (Regions A – E) as seen in attachment #3.
- **EMCC Correspondence:** Attached to the agenda packet is correspondence distributed by Orange County EMS since the last meeting and also includes correspondence received by Stephen Wontrobski.

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

Dr. Stratton reported on items discussed at the Facilities Advisory met on November 14, 2017. This committee discussed the feasibility of adding another trauma center and the establishment of a County-wide standard ambulance patient off-load time.

**VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- **Ambulance Patient Off-load Time (APOT):** Attached to the agenda packet are data for the fourth quarter of 2017 (October 1 to December 31, 2017). Each local EMS agency is required to establish the County-wide standard. Local EMS agencies that have established standards throughout California have been set between 25 and 35 minutes. The Facilities Advisory Subcommittee met on November 14, 2017 to discuss and establish the acceptable standard APOT time as requested by the Emergency Medical Care Committee at their October meeting. After much discussion, the Facilities Advisory Committee recommended the standard APOT time be set at 35 minutes, 90 percent of the time.

Dr. Stratton outlined the data presented for the months of October, November, and December, 2017 for 9-1-1 transport runs only and stated the data do not include behavioral health emergency transports.

Committee members asked that this standard time not be established until further discussions with the hospitals and other constituency groups have taken place. Committee members discussed adding the number of ED patient beds for each hospital to data presented; standard operating procedures that hospitals follow to free up transport and ALS providers; and determine the impact to the community when ambulance service and ALS service providers are out of service. Mr. Karras asked that OCEMS review the IFT-ALS APOT times and include these data in the APOT reports. Chief Knabe asked if there is any correlation between APOT time and diversion hours. Dr. Stratton reported that medical literature shows that when hospitals are unable to off-load patients within 20 minutes; the mortality rate increases.

*Steven Wontrobski: Suggest that hospitals that currently do not meet the 30 minute standard be notified and requested to submit a plan to be implemented on reducing the APOT time; he also requested that this be agenda item for the next meeting with follow-up.*

**MSC: Recommended that Orange County EMS ask for feedback from constituent groups, including hospitals, ALS and BLS service providers for feedback.**

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. EMS Fees Update**

Ms. McConnell reported the attached memo outlines the fees to be charged effective January 1, 2018 and January 1, 2019, is an informational item only.

**B. Orange County Trauma System Operation: 2018 Report**

Dr. Stratton reported three facilities have expressed interest in becoming either a Level II or Level III trauma center. After much discussion at the November 14, 2017 Facilities Advisory Committee meeting, this white paper was prepared and is an informational item only. Art Pedroza stated that he fully supports a designation of an additional trauma center in the event of a major incident, such as the shooting in Las Vegas.

**C. City of Laguna Beach Upgrade to ALS Unit**

Dr. Stratton provided background information on the City of Laguna Beach's request to upgrade to an ALS unit. He reported there are many challenges in the Laguna Beach area which makes the upgrade necessary. In response to Mr. Wontrobski's concerns, Dr. Stratton stated that among the duties of a fire captain/paramedic are to manage the incident scene and ensure scene safety; and therefore he/she may not be able to provide effective patient care.

*Stephen Wontrobski stated he had no objections to this upgrade but had expressed objections to the Orange County Fire Authority in their upgrades to an ALS unit. He expressed concerns about a statement made by the OCFA fire chief regarding the duties of a fire captain/paramedic onsite not being able to provide patient care.*

**D. Appointment of Nomination Committee for EMCC Calendar Year 2018 Slate of Officers**

Dr. Ritter asked for volunteers to serve as a nomination committee. Both Karen Sharp and Jim Karras offered to serve on the nominating committee.

**E. Emergency Receiving Center/Specialty Receiving Center Designations**

Attached to packet is the Summary Report for hospital re-designations presented to the Facilities Advisory Committee on November 14, 2017. The Facilities Advisory Committee has recommended that the Emergency Medical Care Committee approve the re-designations of Children's Hospital of Orange County; Fountain Valley Regional Hospital; Hoag Hospital-Newport Beach, Kaiser Hospital-Irvine; La Palma Intercommunity Hospital, Mission Hospital-Mission Viejo; Orange County Global Medical Center; Placentia Linda Hospital; Saddleback Memorial Medical Center; St. Joseph Hospital; St. Jude Medical Center; and the University of California, Irvine Medical Center as outlined in the January 5, 2018 report.

Chief Knabe: Suggested that APOT times should also be reviewed when reviewing facilities for re-designation of emergency receiving centers and specialty receiving centers.

**MSC:** *The Emergency Medical Care Committee recommended the re-designation of Children's Hospital of Orange County; Fountain Valley Regional Hospital; Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian-Newport Beach; Kaiser Hospital-Irvine; La Palma Intercommunity Hospital; Mission Hospital Regional Medical Center-Mission Viejo; Orange County Global Medical Center; Placentia-Linda Hospital; Saddleback Memorial Medical Center; St. Joseph Hospital; St. Jude Medical Center; and the University of California, Irvine Medical Center for a period of three years as indicated in the report.*

**VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

**VIII. MEMBER COMMENTS**

**IX. PUBLIC FORUM**

*Stephen Wontrobski: Supports the release of a memorandum regarding the use of IFT-ALS units by hospitals. Reported on correspondence he submitted to Orange County EMS regarding public safety costs.*

**X. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 6, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting scheduled for July 6, 2018 has been rescheduled for Friday, July 13, 2018 due to an audio/video upgrade to the Commission Hearing Room.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.