

April 6, 2018

Mrs. Tammi McConnell, Program Manager  
Orange County Emergency Medical Services  
405 West Fifth Street, Suite 301A  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Ms. McConnell:

On behalf of Providence St. Joseph Health, which in Orange County includes Mission Hospital Laguna Beach, Mission Hospital Mission Viejo, St. Joseph Hospital Orange, St. Jude Medical Center, and Hoag Memorial Presbyterian, I would like to provide comments to the OC Health Care Agency's report, "The Orange County Trauma System: 2018." We find that the OC Health Agency report serves as an initial basis for dialogue about the current trauma system within Orange County. However, we find it important to note that some data reported in the agency report may be inaccurate (based on our understanding of what was provided.)

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Trauma transport times may be flawed (some geographies such as Newport Beach are *excluded* in drive-time analysis; inconsistencies with independent known data; future 405 Freeway widening project transit delays not addressed);
- Missing data for all trauma victims (including those at non-trauma centers); and
- Inconsistent data sets (the date range of some data inquiries are inconsistent or outdated. See "Institutional Volume and Acuity Numbers for Trauma Centers").

Therefore, PSJH believes the county should conduct a comprehensive analysis of the Orange County Trauma System to resolve these perceived data inconsistencies to further ensure the county assess any potential vulnerabilities for providing adequate trauma care to the county's 3.2 million residents (and growing) for the foreseeable future.

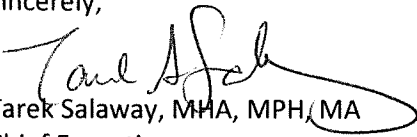
Some additional considerations for finding significant need to assess Orange County's trauma system are the following:

- While population growth is *relatively* slow (per the agency report), 10 percent growth in only 10 years represents a significant increase to trauma volume, which would require time to adapt.
- The American College of Surgeons recommends one trauma center per 300,000 people.
- San Diego County has a similar size population (est. 3 million), which accommodates five trauma centers to Orange County's three. LA County has 15 trauma centers for their approximately 10 million residents.

- The OC Health Care Agency report does not appear to include data for Newport Beach, where travel times may be comparable to Huntington Beach – the longest travel times in the Orange County ranging from 20-22 minutes.
- It is important to have an objective and comprehensive analysis of where an additional trauma center should be located (taking into account these additional factors)
  - Geography, population, trauma visits by zip code, travel time

Thank you for considering these suggestions and sharing our concerns about the Orange County trauma system and the safety of our residents. If you have any questions, please contact Rochelle Silsbee, director of public affairs, at (661) 481-8139 or [rochelle.silsbee@providence.org](mailto:rochelle.silsbee@providence.org).

Sincerely,

  
Tarek Salaway, MHA, MPH, MA  
Chief Executive  
Mission Hospital

Cc: Orange County Board of Supervisors; Sam J. Stratton, M.D.; Michael Ritter, M.D.; Chris Wangsaporn; Veronica Carpenter; Arie Dana; Patrik Kim; Melanie Eustice; Martin Gardner; Denis Bilodeau; Natalie Wieckert; Victor Cao; Sara May; Whitney Ayers