



# EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE



## REGULAR MEETING

Friday, July 9, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.

**Location: Via Zoom**

## M I N U T E S

### MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE

<u>MEMBERS</u>		<u>REPRESENTING</u>	<u>HEALTH CARE AGENCY STAFF</u>	
Michael S. Ritter, MD	–	Orange County Medical Assn. (SOCEP)	Steve Thronson	– Deputy Agency Director, Medical Health Services
Arturo Pedroza	–	Board of Supervisors-First District	Torhon Barnes	– Chief of Staff, Health Care Agency
Lawrence A. Grihalva	–	Board of Supervisors-Second District	Carl H. Schultz, MD	– EMS Medical Director
Timothy Munzing, MD	–	Board of Supervisors-Third District	Gagandeep Grewal, MD	– Associate EMS Medical Director
Luis Estevez	–	Board of Supervisors-Fourth District	Tammi McConnell, MSN	– EMS Director
Ted Heyming, MD	–	Board of Supervisors-Fifth District	Jesse Allured	– EMS Assistant Administrator
Robert Viera	–	Ambulance Assn. of Orange County	Danielle Ogaz	– EMS Systems & Standards Chief
Rebecca Gomez	–	City Selection Committee	Laura Wallin, RN	– ALS/CQI Coordinator
Karen Sharp, RN	–	Hospital Association of S. California	David Johnson, RN	– Facilities Coordinator
Chief Adam Loeser	–	Orange County Fire Chiefs Assn.	Jason Azuma, NREMT-P	– OC-MEDS Coordinator
David Gibbs, MD	–	Orange County Medical Assn.	Andrew Roberts	– EMS Specialist
Michael Killebrew	–	Orange County City Managers Assn.	Rommel Navarro	– Health Care Agency Pharmacist
Chief Stu Greenberg (exc)	–	Orange County Police Chiefs & Sheriffs Assn.	Brianna Hamlet	– Medical Services, Intern
			Eileen Endo	– Office Specialist
<b><u>GUESTS PRESENT</u></b>				
Julia Afrasiabi, RN	–	UCI Medical Center	Randy Harper	– Orange County Sheriff's Department/EMD
Whitney Ayers	–	Hospital Association of S. California	Vanessa Hayflich	– Mercy Air Service, Inc.
Drew Bernard	–	Emergency Ambulance Service	Dawn Hazard	–
Greg Boswell, RN	–	Fountain Valley Fire Department	Jeff Lung, RN	– Orange Coast Memorial Medical Center
Ruth Clark, RN	–	Orange County Global Medical Center	Walt Lynch	– Lynch Ambulance Service
Todd Costa	–	Orange County Fire Authority	Sharon Richards	– Hospital Association of Southern California
Ryan Creager	–	Mercy Air Service, Inc	Chris Waddell, RN	– Huntington Beach Hospital
Laura Cross, RN	–	Mission Hospital	Jacob Wagoner	– Lynch Ambulance Service
Gloria Guerra, RN	–	St. Jude Medical Center		

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

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

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

Dr. Ritter announced the addition of Rebecca (Becky) Firey as the new representative from the American Red Cross and Larry Grihalva, MICP who was appointed to serve as the Second District by Supervisor Katrina Foley.

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

*Minutes from the April 9, 2021, meeting were approved as submitted.*

### **IV. OCEMS REPORT**

- **Medical Director's Report**

Dr. Schultz reported that Orange County EMS would like to conduct the next meeting as a hybrid meeting with those comfortable in attending the meeting in-person while others may join the meeting via Zoom

video conferencing. The change in the meeting format is dependent on the status of Covid cases in the County.

- **Health Emergency Management Report**

Dr. Grewal presented the Health Emergency Management Report which included the vaccination efforts in the County, the number of Orange County residents vaccinated. Data indicate that more than 70% of adults in the County have been vaccinated; the case rates; the number of vaccinations conducted by the mobile pods. Currently, the Health Care Agency's Operation Center is currently operating at a Level 2.

- **Hospital Diversion Report (January 1 to June 30, 2021)**

Attached to the agenda is the Hospital Diversion Report for the period of January 1 to June 30, 2021. Mr. Johnson reported that after high diversion hours in January, ED diversion had leveled off and is now experiencing an increase in diversion hours. ReddiNet now allows the Stroke-Neurology Receiving Centers to go on diversion for neuro.

- **Ambulance Patient Off-Load Time (APOT) Report**

Attached to the agenda is the Ambulance Patient Off-Load Time (APOT) Report for the period of March 1 to June 30, 2021. Jason Azuma presented a report on the 2021 APOT data via the APOT dashboard. Stable volumes and 90<sup>th</sup> percentile times remain stable with a slight increase seen during the months of May and June. The dashboard includes links to the monthly APOT reports as well as gauges for the individual hospitals over a 24-hour period.

- **EMCC Correspondence**

Attached to the agenda is a memorandum announcing that Hoag Hospital Irvine is now providing basic OB services.

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

- **Facilities Advisory Committee (May, 2021 meeting)**

Dr. Schultz reported Committee members discussed the addition of a new policy which presents all of the data reporting for each of the specialty receiving centers. This gives specialty receiving centers the ability to review a single reference point for data reporting elements for each type of receiving center.

- **County Paramedic Advisory Committee (May, 2021 meeting)**

Dr. Schultz reported that this Committee discussed hospital diversion, changes made to clinical policies that were changed to many of the items announced year including APOT times, and the implementation of the new policies effective April 1, 2021.

- **Transportation Advisory Committee (July 7, 2021)**

Committee members discussed the resumption of Health Care Coalition of Orange County meetings in-person and encourages ambulance service representatives to attend the meetings. The next Transportation Advisory Committee will meet on October 6, 2021.

## VI. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- **Orange County Ambulance Ordinance**

Tammi McConnell reported that Orange County EMS has met with the fire chiefs to address their concerns regarding changes to the ordinance and have met with a small working group. There have been no substantial changes on how the ambulance service providers conduct business. A final version will be

presented once the subgroup has been prepared a finalized document. Once it has been finalized it will be shared with EMCC members.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- **Emergency Ground BLS Ambulance Rates**

Attached to the agenda are the Emergency Ground BLS 9-1-1 Ambulance Rates which became effective on July 1, 2021. Ms. McConnell reported the increase to the Emergency Base Rate is based upon the increase in minimum wage and the other rates are increased/decreased based upon the Consumer Price Index.

- **Advanced Life Support Change: Anaheim Fire and Rescue**

Dr. Schultz reported that OCEMS Policy/Procedure #705.00 addresses the expansion of ALS and paramedic assessment units in the County. Anaheim Fire and Rescue submitted an application for an ALS unit in April. This is being shared with EMCC for review and comment. This is being presented to allow for review and comment seen in the attached documentation. Chief Loeser asked for the purpose of submitted application. Ms. McConnell reported that under regulations, after notifications need to be made to other fire service providers, ambulance service providers, base hospitals, and Orange County Communications are aware of the change.

- **Policy Updates**

Dr. Schultz outlined the changes that became effective on July 1, 2021. Most of the changes that were made were housekeeping changes. Those policies that were most impacted were those that were revised due to changes made to the American Heart Association guidelines and changes required due to revisions to State regulations. The clinical policies will not go into effect until October 1, 2021 to allow for training of paramedics. Larry Grihalva asked what changed in the definition of “patient” statutorily to determine whether an individual is considered a patient. Luis Estevez asked whether or not drug errors are reported. Ms. McConnell reported that feedback is received by the hospital receiving the patients or via self-reporting of a medication error.

## **VIII. MEMBER COMMENTS**

*Chief Loeser commended everyone who was involved in the management of the super PODS to perform COVID testing and to administer COVID vaccinations to public safety personnel and to the public.*

## **IX. PUBLIC FORUM**

*No public comments from members were received.*

## **X. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 8, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. Due to the current pandemic, the meeting may be held via Zoom videoconferencing.