



Health Care Coalition of Orange County

Advisory Committee

EMS

Wednesday, September 8, 2021 – 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Location: ZOOM

Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order by Alison Kellman at 10:30 a.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- If you dialed in and do not have access to the chat box, please email Irma Chavando at ichavando@ochca.com with your name and contact information.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- The June 9, 2021 minutes were approved

IV. EMS/HEM REPORT

- Dr. Grewal reported that the COVID-19 case rates and hospitalizations have been decreasing from their peaks, but numbers are still elevated. There has been a concern in the news about pediatric hospitalizations but the proportion of pediatric patients hospitalized for COVID is similar recently compared to the total. 70-80% of eligible Orange County residents have been vaccinated with at least one dose of vaccine. The County continues to support vaccine PODS for different organizations and the AOC is busy supporting the logistics of this effort.
- The AOC is also activated to support resource requests for needed supplies. Keep in mind that because supply chains have opened up considerable, when submitting a request you are required to provide proof that you have reached out to your usual supply chains and the items are out of stock. Also understand that if you have difficulty obtaining certain supplies, so do we, such as Small Gloves. The County also has testing kits available. The BinaxNOW kits are in short supply at the state level but we have some available. There are also the Ambry and Fulgent kits available, which are self-collected, send-in molecular tests.
- There have been questions about how to treat EMS workers who arrive at facilities and whether proof of vaccine or negative test is required for them. CDPH clarified that these personnel (as well as police, fire, and emergency response providers) are not subject to the visitation requirements. These personnel also do not have a mandate for vaccination at this time.
- For those wondering about boosters following the recommendations coming out of the White House, there is no recommendation for boosters at this time. The FDA and ACIP will be meeting next week to decide if and when boosters are warranted. "Additional doses" (previously known as boosters) are recommended for moderately or severely immunocompromised people.
- APOT times have been around 35 to 40 minutes recently which is about 10 minutes longer than the usual APOT. Diversion in August was over 2000 hours which is the 2nd highest (December 2020 was the highest) that we have recorded. Diversion is still moderately high but improving.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- Revision of EMS Advisory Committee Goals – Kim Zaky mentioned building up the participation of the group and providing education.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- Rob Viera with FALCK Ambulance spoke about formalizing the process for ordering ambulances during a disaster. The process will need to be written down and created.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

- General HCCOC Meeting – October 28, 2021 – 10:30am – 12:00pm, Zoom

VIII. NEXT MEETING

- December 8, 2021, 10:30 – 11:30am, Zoom/TBD

IX. ADJOURNMENT

- 10:53 a.m. – Zoom got disconnected