



COUNTY PREHOSPITAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 9, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.
Meeting held via Zoom Video Conferencing

MINUTES

MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS

- Theodore Heyming, MD
- Jon Cline MD
- Robert Granata, MD
- Matthew Hunt, MD (excused)
- Iksoo Kang, MD
- Eric McCoy, MD
- David Ngo, MD
- Kelly Unger, MD
- Robert Katzer, MD
- Claus Hecht MD
- Shira Schlesinger, MD

REPRESENTING

- BHPD – Children’s Hospital of Orange County
- BHPD – Mission Hospital
- BHPD – Orange County Global Med. Ctr.
- BHPD – Hoag Hospital
- BHPD – St. Jude Medical Center
- BHPD – UCI Medical Center
- BHPD – Huntington Beach Hospital
- BHPD – Huntington Beach Hospital
- Anaheim Fire & Rescue
- Orange County Fire Authority
- Newport Beach Fire Department

MEMBERS

- Capt. Brandon Grinstead
- Jeff Lopez, EMT-P

- Patrick Dibb
- Patty Glead, RN (excused)
- Justin Homer, EMT-P
- Kim Nichols, RN

REPRESENTING

- Orange County Fire Authority
- Representing Huntington Beach Fire Dept.

- EMT Training Programs
- Paramedic Training
- Fire Chiefs’ EMS Committee
- ED Nursing Leadership

- Julia Afrasiabi, RN
- Ruth Clark, RN
- Laura Cross, RN
- Cyndie Strader, RN
- Christine Waddell, RN
- Heidi Yttri, RN
- Kim Zaky, RN

- BHC – UCI Medical Center
- BHC – Orange County Global Med. Ctr.
- BHC – Mission Hospital
- BHC – Hoag Hospital
- BHC – Huntington Beach Hospital
- BHC – St. Jude Medical Center
- BHC – Children’s Hospital of Orange County

OCEMS STAFF PRESENT

- Carl Schultz, MD
 - Gagandeep Grewal, MD
 - Danielle Ogaz
 - Laurent Repass, NRP
 - Adrian Rodriguez
 - David Johnson, RN
 - Jason Azuma, EMT-P
 - Erica Moojen
 - Eileen Endo
 - Lisa Wilson
- EMS Medical Director
 - Associate EMS Medical Director
 - EMS Systems & Standards Chief
 - EMS Information Systems Chief
 - EMS Performance Chief
 - EMS Facilities Coordinator
 - OC-MEDS Coordinator
 - EMS Office Supervisor
 - Office Specialist
 - Information Processing Technician

GUESTS PRESENT

NAME

- Drew Bernard
- Shelley Brukman, RN
- Mackenzie Ferguson, RN
- Brice Girdley, RN
- Larry Grihalva, MICP
- Andrew Hill

REPRESENTING

- Emergency Ambulance Service
- Children’s Hospital of Orange County
- Children’s Hospital of Orange County
- Lynch Ambulance Service
- Costa Mesa Fire Dept.
- Laguna Beach Fire Dept.

MEMBERS

- Bryan Johnson, RN
- Rhonda Rosati, RN
- Kristin Thompson, RN
- Amy Waunch, RN
- Paul Whittaker

REPRESENTING

- Orange City Fire Dept.
- Brea/Fullerton Fire Department
- Newport Beach Fire Dept.
- Children’s Hospital of Orange County
- Orange County Fire Authority

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Dr. Ted Heyming.

II. INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Schultz introduced two new members: Justin Horner who is representing the Fire Chiefs EMS Committee and Heidi Yttri, RN, who is the new Base Hospital Coordinator at St. Jude Medical Center.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the January 12, 2022 meeting was approved as submitted.

IV. OCEMS REPORT

Presented by Dr. Schultz:

• Medical Director’s Report

Dr. Carl Schultz reported the changes to policies/procedures and standing orders that become effective on April 1, 2022. A memo outlining the changes will be released prior to the effective date. Dr. Schultz added that two additional policies will be revised in April and are expected to be released sometime in April. These are Policy/Procedure #385.05 which was revised so that the language is not punitive in nature and Policy/Procedure #310.96 which incorporates interventions taken during the last surge limiting the amount of time that ambulance units spend in the emergency department.

Dr. Schultz stated that once a policy, procedure, or standing order becomes a permanent component in the OCEMS website and field personnel are not given an option whether or not to follow the guideline. Policies, procedures and standing orders under medical control must be followed. Orange County EMS' expectation is that these policies are to be followed and non-compliance could result in liability to the individual, without the protection of OCEMS if not followed. Jeff Lopez asked if a patient has been unloaded, is there an option for that patient to be transported to another facility. Dr. Schultz replied that paramedics can contact the EMS duty officer to request the hospital be placed on mandatory diversion.

- **OCEMS Report:**

David Johnson reported there are several webinars and meetings are coming up in the next couple of months. These include the March 30th Trauma Grand Rounds with Dr. Michael Lekawa hosting; the California Health Care Facilities Disaster conference will be held on April 5-6 at the Newport Renaissance; and on June 27th and 28th, the State EMS Authority will be holding two half-day summits (one stroke summit and one STEMI summit).

Danielle Ogaz reported that two memos were issued regarding EMT certification/recertification. EMTs who were given a National Registry EMT card on a provisional basis now have until June 30, 2022 to convert that to an active EMT certificate. Likewise, EMTs recertifying their EMT certification are not required to do the skills verification sheet before June 30, 2022.

- **Health Emergency Management (Disaster Report):**

Dr. Grewal reported on the number of COVID cases and also on the number of influenza cases that are hospitalized. He reported that support of vaccination PODs is winding down. iHealth test kits may be distributed to agencies that would like them.

- **Hospital Diversion Report (Annual Report for 2021):**

David Johnson gave a quick report for the months of January and February. There was no ED Diversion for the month of January and first part of February. ED diversion did have an impact on other categories of diversion (CVRC, CT, Internal Disruption, etc.) due to the no diversion policy held in place during the first two months of the year. Orange County EMS in collaboration with Los Angeles County created a new category of diversion (EDLA) which enabled Orange County facilities to close when bordering LA County hospitals were diverting patients. Hospital diversion hours in February were approximately 425 hours and have declined steadily since then.

- **Ambulance Patient Off-Load Time:**

Attached to the agenda is the APOT Report for the month of January, 2022. APOT data for February 2022 has recently been posted to the APOT dashboard. January's APOT data mirrors the COVID case rates and has the highest number of transports since APOT data have been collected. APOT data is being monitored on a regular basis. Currently, there are few transports per day than seen during the month of January.

Mr. Repass reported on the Bi-Direction Data Exchange Project. The purpose of this project is to establish bi-direction data exchange between hospitals and field personnel and is funded by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control. A webinar was held on February 16, 2022. Both the webinar and PowerPoint presentation may be found on the OCEMS website. The data from the patient care report will be transmitted to the hospital's electronic data system and allows outcome data could be transported to the field providers. There is a more direct data exchange between the hospitals and field personnel. APOT data are submitted to the State EMS Authority on a quarterly basis.

V. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- **Discussion on Checklist for Potential Patients Released on Scene:**

Dr. Schultz thanked Brandon Grinstead and members of the Fire Chiefs' CQI Committee who have developed a checklist to assist paramedics to determine if further evaluation is needed in those cases where 9-1-1 is called to determine whether or not an adult patient requires further medical evaluation and may be released on scene.

VI. **New Business**

- **Epinephrine Shortages:**

Due to the epinephrine shortage, Orange County EMS allows individual providers to use epinephrine six months past its expiration date. The administration of expired epinephrine will continue to be a base hospital order.

- **Glucagon**

The use of IM Glucagon for the use of removing foreign bodies is not allowed in Orange County as there is insufficient evidence that it is effective.

VII. **Other Business**

MCI Documentation: Chris Waddell asked whether documentation is required for all patients during a multi-casualty event. Kristin Thompson reported that this is not always feasible and is dependent upon the size of the event. MEDCOM does not always have the information readily available. The availability of the information is dependent on the size of the event.

VIII. **Advisory Committee Reports**

- **Base Hospital Coordinators** - *Julia Afrasiabi reported:*

The spring 2022 MICN class is now receiving radio training; and noted the success of the February 2022 "NO FEAR" conference.

- **Orange County Fire Chief EMS** – *Justin Horner reporting*

The annual CFED-West Conference is returning this year. Committee members discussed about OCEMS updates that become effective on April 1, 2022; the EMS website; hospital diversion and APOT times.

- **Orange County Nursing Leadership** – *Kim Nichols reporting:*

This Committee met on Friday, January 14, 2022 where they discussed staffing issues and boarded patients.

- **Facilities Advisory Subcommittee**

This Committee met on March 8, 2022 and discussed everything on today's agenda. Dr. Schultz reported there was a possibility another stroke neurology receiving center needed to be designated. However, as Saddleback Memorial Medical Center has retained their designation, there is no intention of adding another SNRC.

IX. **NEXT MEETING** – Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.