



COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY
 REGULATORY / MEDICAL HEALTH SERVICES
 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
 405 W. Fifth Street, Suite 401A
 Santa Ana, CA 92701



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 3, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

MEMBERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CATEGORY REPRESENTED</u>	<u>ORANGE COUNTY EMS STAFF</u>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Karras, Chair	- S California Ambulance Association	Carl H. Schultz, MD	- EMS Medical Director
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ryan Creager	- Air Transport Provider	Gagandeep Grewal, MD	- Associate EMS Medical Director
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sonam Wangyal	- Ambulance Service Provider non-9-1-1	Adrian Rodriguez	- Ambulance Performance Chief
<input type="checkbox"/> Chad Druten	- Ambulance Service Provider 9-1-1	Kristen Karpow, RN	- EMS Systems and Standards Chief
<input type="checkbox"/> Jill Patt, RN (Exc)	- Base Hospital Coordinators	Genise Silva, RN	- Facilities Coordinator
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Childress, RN	- ED Nursing Leadership	Ruth Clark, RN	- EMS Trauma Coordinator
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bryan Johnson, RN	- Fire Service Provider (with transport)	Drew Bernard	- EMS Specialist
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kristin Thompson, RN	- Fire Service Provider (non- transport)	Sarkis Sarkisian	- EMS Coordinator
		Juan Alvarez	- EMS Specialist
		Lisa Wilson	- IPT

GUESTS PRESENT

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Ernesto Barajas	- APA	Patrick Powers	- City of Placentia
William Orr	- Premier Ambulance Service	Makenzie Ferguson	- CHOC
Brandon Ali	- Horizon OC	Alejandro Martinez	- Horizon OC

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** by Jim Karras (Chair) – Meeting called to order at 9:07a.m..
- I. **INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Chris Childress is taking over for Frank Maas at Hoag for OC ED Nursing Leadership.
- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - Minutes from the October 4, 2023, were approved as submitted.
- III. **OCEMS REPORT**
 - OCEMS Report (Includes Medical Director report by Carl Schultz and EMS report by Gagandeep Grewal) – Carl Schultz reported that as of April 1, 2024, the next set of updates, revisions, removals of policies, procedures & standing orders have been issued. All except one are voluntary for the next six months. The Data Dictionary must go into effect immediately. Monitoring of all 911 IFT transports for patients in the emergency department to long distance destinations. There is concern about two very important transports. Other transport resources should be used such as IFT-ALS units or air ambulances. Unless the emergency departments have exhausted all other options, there will be consequences.
 - EMS Report Training Opportunities – Dr. Grewal reported that APOTs are still slightly above 30 minutes or less. The volume of runs is unprecedented. Chemical surge tabletop is April 10, 2024. Base Hospital Coordinators will do No Fear Conference at CHOC on April 11, 2024. The focus will be pediatrics. There will be a CHEMPACK training on May 21, 2024. The EMSAAC conference is

May 29, 2024, in San Diego. Kristin Thompson reported that it's the 14th year for CFED. Adrian Rodriguez stated that the flyers & maps are included in the meeting agenda packet for the trainings.

- Bi-Directional Data Exchange *by Gagandeep Grewal* – Dr. Grewal reported that the idea is to get the EMS chart into the hospital. As the patient goes through the hospital system, get the outcome data back into the system & back into the provider agencies for outcome measures. 14 out of 24 ERCs on board. 5 ambulance providers are on board. Dashboards are being developed. There is a module in OC-MEDS called Continuum.
- 2024 Ambulance Inspections update *by Drew Bernard* – 18 licensed ambulance companies in Orange County with 373 permitted ambulances & 4 permitted helicopters. 7 ambulance companies are under review. About a month ago, an email was sent to the ambulance providers letting them know that the Ambulance Performance Section was taking over ambulance licensing & vehicle permitting. The Performance section is Adrian Rodriguez, Drew Bernard, Sarkis Sarkisian & Juan Alvarez. They can be emailed individually or email the all-encompassing email is EMSAmbulancePerformance@ochca.com. Adrian Rodriguez reported that policies 720.50, 720.30, 505.00, 510.00, 510.05, 510.10, 530.00 & 535.00 all went out for public comment in October 2023. No comments were received. The policies are now live. Old policies are still on the website. If you are a CE provider in the County or have a CE provider number or an EMT training program, email emslicensing@ochca.com if there are any questions regarding the policies.
- Human Trafficking – Adrian Rodriguez reported that AB-2130 was passed in September 2022. There was a bill that addresses additional training for EMTs that are going through initial training. That kicks in in July of this year. An extra 20 minutes is required in addition to the already required 170 hours for EMTs. And they must address Human Trafficking. A curriculum has been created. E-mail Adrian Rodriguez for that. Patrick Powers asked if OCEMS feel that it might become a mandated report like elder or child abuse. Adrian & Dr. Schultz stated that it is currently not mandated by the state. Jim Karras asked from an awareness standpoint, would it be valuable as a CE? Adrian Rodriguez stated we can accept it as a CE module.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

V. NEW BUSINESS

Jim Karras reported AB716 is California's version of balance billing no surprise. It has gone into effect. It will have ramifications for ambulance providers. There will be 3 scenarios where it will affect ambulance providers. Providers that have rates that are fixed by contract, systems where rates are fixed by regulation, systems where rates are approved & systems where there are no regulations. In Orange County, there is a blended system. The 911 rates are approved for BLS &, in some areas, ALS. And, in IFT, they are currently non-regulated. In non-regulated markets, the laws provide for the insurance companies to use what's generally referred to as the gold standard. Each insurance carrier can apply the gold standard as they interpret it. This can be problematic because they will do what is most favorable for them. It may also be a problem in how the insurance companies interpret our rates. It will address surprise billing issues for the ground ambulance. Where the issues are going to be nebulous for the industry is for the commercial insurers.

VI. NEXT MEETING

- July 3, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

VII. ADJOURNMENT – Jim Karras adjourned the meeting at 9:40a.m.