



COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
8300 Marine Way, Suite 200
Irvine, CA 92618



COUNTY PREHOSPITAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 10, 2025 – 1:00 p.m.
Location: The Marine Way Campus – AOC-103B

MINUTES

MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS

- ☐ Theodore Heyming, MD
- ☒ James Price, MD
- ☒ Robert Granata, MD
- ☒ Joshua Bobko, MD
- ☒ Kelly Dodge, MD
- ☒ Iksoo Kang, MD
- ☐ Eric McCoy, MD
- ☐ David Ngo, MD
- ☐ Kelly Unger, MD
- ☐ Robert Katzer, MD
- ☐ Shira Schlesinger, MD

REPRESENTING

- BHPD – Rady Children's Hospital Orange County
- BHPD – Mission Hospital
- BHPD – Orange County Global Med. Ctr.
- Medical Director – OC Fire Authority
- BHPD – Hoag Memorial Hospital
- BHPD – St. Jude Medical Center
- BHPD – UCI Medical Center
- BHPD – Huntington Beach Hospital
- BHPD – Huntington Beach Hospital
- Medical Director - Anaheim Fire & Rescue
- Medical Director - Newport Beach Fire Dept

- ☒ Julia Afrasiabi, RN
- ☒ Laura Cross, RN
- ☒ Whitney Patnode, RN
- ☒ Jill Patt, RN
- ☒ Heidi Ragas, RN
- ☒ Jenael Rosenberg, RN
- ☒ Abigail Baur, RN
- ☒ Cyndie Strader, RN
- ☒ Monica Layhee, RN

- BHC – UCI Medical Center
- BHC – Mission Hospital
- BHC – Rady Children's Hospital Orange County
- BHC – Huntington Beach Hospital
- BHC – St. Jude Medical Center
- BHC – Hoag Memorial Hospital
- BHC – OC Global Medical Center
- BHC – Hoag Memorial Hospital
- BHC – OC Global Medical Center

MEMBERS

- ☒ Patrick Dibb
- ☐ Patty Gleed, RN
- ☒ Justin Horner, EMT-P
- ☐ Colin Wood
- ☐ Bryan Johnson, RN

REPRESENTING

- EMT Training Programs
- Paramedic Training
- Fire Chiefs EMS Committee
- Anaheim Fire & Rescue
- Orange City Fire Dept.

HCA/OCEMS STAFF PRESENT

- ☐ Mindy Winterswyk
- ☒ Almaas Shaikh, MD
- ☐ Carl Schultz, MD
- ☒ Gagandeep Grewal, MD
- ☒ Mike Noone, NRP
- ☒ Sarkis Sarkisian
- ☒ Genise Silva, RN
- ☒ Ruth Clark, RN
- ☒ Jason Azuma, NRP
- ☒ Stephanie King, RN
- ☒ Drew Bernard
- ☒ Chad Cossey
- ☒ Justin Newton
- ☐ Erica Moojen
- ☒ Kelly Asch

- HCA Assistant Agency Director
- HCA Deputy Health Officer
- EMS Medical Director
- Associate EMS Medical Director
- Assistant EMS Administrator
- EMS Coordinator
- EMS Facilities Coordinator
- EMS Trauma Coordinator
- OC MEDS Coordinator
- EMS Prehospital/CQI Coordinator
- EMS Specialist
- EMS Program Supervisor II
- Sr. Emergency Management Coordinator
- Office Supervisor B
- HDP Staff Assistant

GUESTS PRESENT

NAME

Matt Armstrong
Rhonda Rosati
Api Weinert
Danielle Ogaz
Ryan Creager
Clayton Kazan
Andy Janis
David Christian
Tawnae Thorsen
Karissa James
Ashley Pineda
Elizabeth Hartson

REPRESENTING

- Premiere Ambulance
- Fullerton Fire
- City of Placentia
- LA County Fire Department
- Mercy Air
- LA County Fire Department
- Newport Beach Fire Department
- LA County Fire Department
- Kaiser Irvine
- OC Global Medical Center
- Orange County Fire Authority
- South County Global Medical Center

NAME

Steve Hurdle
Rob Capobianco
Amanda Collins
Danielle Boal
Stephanie Scott
Jourdin Worley
Heather Hogelund
Zach Regan
Katrina Navarro
Alexandra Parath
Erin Johns

REPRESENTING

- LifeLine
- Orange County Fire Authority
- Rady Children's Hospital Orange County
- Brea Fire
- St. Joseph Hospital
- West Anaheim Medical Center
- LA County Fire Department
- Mercy Air
- Kaiser Irvine
- Anaheim Global Medical Center
- Orange County Fire Authority

I. CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order by *Whiteny Patnode* at 1:06 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Everyone went around the room and introduced themselves.
- John Black was introduced as the new Sr. Emergency Management Coordinator for EMS/HDP.
- CHOC's name is changing to Rady's Children Hospital Orange County effective Friday, September 12th.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes from the July 9, 2025, meeting were approved.

IV. **OCEMS REPORT**

- Medical Director's Report – *Dr. Gagandeep Grewal*
 - We are working on updating some policies. We were doing a pilot of using a lower dose of ketamine in the field strictly for pain control, not sedation, and we plan to expand this to the become a standing ALS order for the system. We are waiting for legal support from HCA. There was an alternate discussion on dosage for agitated patients.
 - The recommended dose was a single dose of 10mg for adults.
 - It was also recommended that slow IV push, rather than a slow IV infusion, be the preferred route, with the intent to make the injection practical but still avoid dissociative side effects.
 - Mike Noone met a patient advocate, Jessica Sella, for patients with Addison's Disease and other adrenal issues. Her son attends Chapman University and carries a small kit with injectable steroids. How can we get our paramedics comfortable assisting a patient who is carrying their own steroid for adrenal crisis?
 - Base hospitals would recommend telling paramedic/EMT not to administer until at the hospital if they don't feel comfortable.
 - Others commented that there are numerous rare conditions in the community, and it is rarer still to need to respond to and treat these conditions. It would be burdensome for the EMS system to have all EMS providers learn about all of these rare conditions and their treatment.
 - A suggestion was made about having methylprednisolone on the ambulances as it is easier to administer and will have some effect on Addison's Crisis. Dr Schlesinger also pointed out that steroids are being used for asthma in some EMS systems.
 - Triage to Alternate Destination project — We are working on finalizing funding to begin the pilot with Anaheim Fire and the Santa Ana CSU.
- Health Disaster Preparedness Report – *Dr. Gagandeep Grewal*
 - We had the HICS training on August 7th here at the AOC. We also had the two-day Health Disaster Management Training (HDMT) training on August 20th and 21st. Both were a great success and there was positive feedback from the attendees.
- Ambulance Patient Off-Load Time – *Jason Azuma*
 - APOT in August was a little busier than July. We had 547 transports a day for just under 17,000 transports for the month of August. We did stay well below our 30 min benchmark, with a 90th % of 23:32.
 - All AB40 requirements are supported in the current OC-MEDS PCRS standards. However, it was brought to our attention that it is not obvious. We are looking to modify our Run Form to help make sure that everything is being documented.
 - Diversion went up in August. We were over 1,000 hours as a system at 5.7%, which is below our informal standard of 6%.

V. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Possible updates for SO-C-40, SO-P-35, and SO-M-35 – *Dr. Gagandeep Grewal*
 - Added lidocaine to SO-C-40 for another option for wide complex tachycardia with a pulse.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS**

- None

VII. **ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Base Hospital Coordinators
Nothing to report.
- Orange County ED Nursing Leadership
Cyndie Strader reported that they discussed SB43 at their last meeting. They also discussed the audit tool for AB40. The measles outbreak was also discussed, as well as a Trauma Tool Kit that is being developed.
- Orange County Fire Chiefs EMS Committee
Justin Horner reported that they continue to work on recommended updates for SO-C-10 and looking at pediatric airway options. The base coordinators are looking at SO-AMA language and update to standing order.
- Facilities Advisory Subcommittee
Met yesterday and discussed motion for upcoming designation for Kaiser Irvine.
- Pediatric Collaborative
Have not met since June.
- Agenda Topics: Andrew Tran would like to discuss 911 guidelines on when to call 911.

VIII. **ROUND TABLE**

- Stephanie Scott from St. Joe's shared an atypical tragic case that came in and wanted to say thank you to the EMS team that brought the patient in for their professionalism, OCFA Engine 32.
- David Christian from LA County Fire Department offered to share their training for Triage to Alternate Destinations.
- Josh Bobko, MD wanted to reiterate how important it is to begin blood transfusions in the field.

IX. **NEXT MEETING**

- Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. – 8300 Marine Way, Irvine.

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

- With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m. with a presentation by Dr. Shieh on Pediatric Anaphylaxis following.