



## TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, January 7, 2026 – 9:00am

### MINUTES

#### MEMBERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CATEGORY REPRESENTED</u>	<u>ORANGE COUNTY EMS STAFF</u>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matt Armstrong, Chair	- S. California Ambulance Association	Mike Noone, EMT-P	- Assistant EMS Director
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ryan Creager	- Air Transport Provider	Carl Schultz, MD	- EMS Medical Director
<input type="checkbox"/> Chad Druten	- Ambulance Service Provider 9-1-1	Gagandeep Grewal, MD	- Associate EMS Medical Director
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jacob Wagoner	- Ambulance Service Provider non- 9-1-1	Kristen Karpow, RN	- EMS Clinical Chief
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bryan Johnson, RN	- Fire Service Provider (with transport)	Meng Chung, EMT-P	- EMS Personnel Chief
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Cross, RN	- Mission Hospital	Adrian Rodriguez	- Ambulance Performance Chief
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Childress, RN	- ED Nursing Leadership	Ruth Clark, RN	- EMS Trauma Coordinator
		Laurent Repass, NREMT-P	- EMS Information & Analytics Chief
		Anjan Purohit, NREMT-P	- EMS Analytics Coordinator
		Drew Bernard, EMT	- EMS Specialist
		Sarkis Sarkisian, EMT	- EMS Coordinator
		Lisa Wilson	- Information Processing Technician

#### GUESTS PRESENT

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Whitney Patnode	- Rady Children's Health
Bill Weston	- Emergency Ambulance Service
Heidi Ragas	- St. Jude
Jenael Rosenberg	- Hoag
Danielle Boal	- Brea Fire Department
Amanda Collins	- Rady Children's Health
Josh Dean	- Premier Ambulance
Shane Ryan	- Falck
Julia Afrasiabi	- UCI

I. **CALL TO ORDER** by *Matt Armstrong (Chair)* – Meeting was called to order at 9:05am.

II. **INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS** by *Carl Schultz*.

- New Chair (*TBD*) – Matt Armstrong: New chair to this committee is a typo. Scratch from agenda.
- OCEMS Medical Director Retirement: Last day at EMS is January 22, 2026.

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- *Action Item: Approval of July 2, 2025, Minutes* – Minutes approved as submitted.

IV. **OCEMS REPORT**

- Medical Director Report by *Carl Schultz* - There is good progress on the triage to alternate destination. Funding has been secured. There will be a training session January 15, 2026, at Anaheim Fire Department. There will be a Train the Trainer course that will start the process of training paramedics to staff their vehicles when they are dispatched to a psychiatric emergency. They will be empowered to screen the patient & take them to a CSU to make sure they can accept electronic medical records. Possibly around April 1, 2026, we will have Anaheim Fire paramedics be able to directly transport patients from the scene to the CSU & not go to the Emergency Department.

- EMS Report and Training Opportunities *by Gagandeep Grewal* – In April, there will be the Statewide Medical Health Exercise which will focus on a cyber-attack. Hopefully there will be participation across all the broad sectors.
- APOT *by Laurent Repass* – In the agenda packet, there are four months' worth of APOT & Diversion data from June to October. The APOT numbers have been consistently below the thirty-minute threshold. The November & December reports are being worked on.
- NEMSIS v.3.5.1 and Data Dictionary Updates *by Laurent Repass* – The state is requiring that we make a transition to NEMSIS v.3.5.1 by November 1, 2026. They had previously wanted us to make the transition by the end of last year but that wasn't doable. If your agency uses OC-MEDS as your patient care reporting system, we will be handling this transition for you. If you have a third-party data system, make sure that your provider is able to transition to v.3.5.1 & can send data in that format by November 1, 2026. A letter was sent out October 2025 providing reminders & updates.
- *Jason Azuma* - CEMISIS is now mandating the use of defined values. This change went into effect January 1, 2026. This will not change how the values will look for Orange County, but it does change how our system maps it to the state. Albuterol for the state might have a different code than Albuterol for Orange County. Push dose Epi is not something the state has in their defined list. We will map push dose Epi one to ten thousand. All changes have a little effect, but we want to make sure you are aware of them. The Data Dictionary will have a column in the attachment for procedures, medications & impressions that show how our values are being mapped to the state, so you are aware of how your data is going to look when it is exported to the state. We want to make sure that everyone is aware that these values for these elements particularly medications & procedures, while the state might have a different defined value list, for Orange County, we will continue to use our defined value list. For secondary impression, there are several new values for abuse for children & adults, both physical & sexual. There are two values for labor exploitation. Secondary impressions should not change how you are documenting your primary or your secondary impressions at present. These are additions the state is asking us to make sure they are documented if abuse is suspected. This does not take the place of cause of injury. There are some abuse values in cause of injury. Those abuse values are still active & should be used as a multi select. We are adding the provision of food as a procedure particularly for hypoglycemic presentations. Provision of food will now be a procedure that can be documented in the ePCR run form. We will be updating our facilities list. There are a number of changes made in the past few months that are not reflected in our current facilities list but that are active in OC-MEDS. Many hospital names are outdated. Let us know of any facility updates so that can include it in our next update.
- UCI – Irvine *by Kristen Karpow* - The UCI Health Irvine campus opened on December 10, 2025. They are an ERC, they are not a specialty center at this time. They have been added to the system & to ReddiNet. We are almost finished updating the policies to include that facility. In the memo that went out, the contact information for that facility was included. There was a separate email that was sent out to providers that need the 800 MHz ALS no contact radio information. OCC told us they were getting inquiries with difficulty in contact using the ALS no contact 800 MHz. They sent out another memo from the Orange County Sheriff's department that gave manual paging instructions. If anyone needs that, Kristen will talk with you after the meeting.
- Facility Name Changes *by Kristen Karpow* – We have a lot of facility name change updates. In addition to the UCI Health Irvine, we also have CHOC that changed its name to Rady Children's Health Orange County. Name changes have been updated in applicable policies. When UCI Health Irvine opened, that organization also changed the name of the UCI Medical Center which is their

Orange campus. That is now UCI Health Orange. All of the other UCI Health names remain the same.

- *Julia Afrasiabi, CHOC* - We are trying to disseminate a request to the ground crews from a transportation perspective to find the best way to make sure you're confirming the correct UCI & let the patient's family know.
- *Laurent Repass* - All of the names for the UCI Health hospitals have been changed with the exception of UCI Medical Center in OC-MEDS because there are a lot of programmatic changes we need to make in the background. It was changed in ReddiNet. It will be changed in OC-MEDS sometime this month or next month. Once it is changed, the system will be notified.
- *APOT Discrepancy Meetings by Kristen Karpow – AB40*: What is the operational process going to be to comply with the AB40 requirements? The part that affects us at OCEMS is we are required to facilitate a meeting to review & validate any APOT discrepancies that have been reported by facilities with the transporting agency that documented that APOT value. A facility is going to review their APOT data package which is sent to them by the state. This APOT audit tool is an EMSA state tool. The facilities send their discrepancies to the tool which automatically triggers the tool to inform the transport agency & OCEMS. A scheduling poll will be sent from either Kristen or Stephanie King. Our standing availability for this meeting is Tuesdays between 1pm & 3pm. It is sent to the ER Director & the contact at the transport agency. A week is given to respond. The soonest available spot is chosen. The Outlook invite is sent to the appropriate parties including OCEMS stakeholders. If a response is not received by the deadline of the scheduling poll, the meeting will be scheduled around the schedules of the individuals who did respond. In AB40, it states unresolved discrepancies will default to the APOT documented in CEMSIS.
- *Anjan Purohit* - The APOT tool is not perfect. There is currently a system message stating that some records are displaying wrong offload times, but it is being worked on.
- *Kristen Karpow* - If something is wrong with the tool, hold off on submitting discrepancies. Wait until it is working. Incidents are sent securely individually to the transport agencies in case the automatic notifications are not received. The APOT Discrepancy meeting is a Teams meeting. It is virtual. At the beginning of the meeting, it is asked that the participants validate they are in a private area because PHI may be shared.
- *Ambulance Inspection Updates by Drew Bernard – 2026 renewals* were completed. Cal Med opted not to renew for 2026. There are 19 ground ambulance companies & 1 airship company. There are a total of 467 permitted ambulances & 3 airships. This is the highest in the county since 2016. One company is applying & should be approved within the next month.
- *New IFT-ALS Provider by Drew Bernard –* Since our last meeting, we have licensed one new IFT-ALS provider which is Medtrans.

## **V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Update on AB 40 *by Carl Schultz*
- Follow UP on TAD Project *by Carl Schultz*

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

- *Laura Cross, Mission* - Mission, being Hoag campus, will start construction in April on their ambulance bay area. It will have a huge impact on the flow of ambulances.
- *Mike Noone* - A goal for 2026 for EMS is how can meetings be improved? Are we giving the same information to the same people at five different meetings? Is there a way to make each meeting specific to its audience? We welcome suggestions.

**VII. NEXT MEETING**

- April 7, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. – the next meeting will be April 1, 2026, at 9:00a.m.4
- Quarterly 2026 TAC Meeting Dates

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT – Matt Armstrong adjourned the meeting at 9:32am.**