



EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE



Friday, April 10, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.
 8300 Marine Way, Irvine, CA 92618
 Meeting Room 103-B

ATTENDANCE

Name	Representing	Health Care Agency Staff	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael S. Ritter, MD	– Orange County Medical Assn. (SOCEP)	Daniel McDonnell, NRP	– EMS Director
<input type="checkbox"/> Van Vu, MD	– Board of Supervisors, First District	Almaas Shaikh	– Interim EMS Medical Director
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Grihalva, MICP	– Board of Supervisors, Second District	Gagandeep Grewal, MD	– Associate EMS Medical Director
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timothy Munzing, MD	– Board of Supervisors, Third District	Laurent Repass, NRP	– EMS Performance Chief
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adam Loeser, Fire Chief	– Board of Supervisors, Fourth District	Kristen Karpow, RN	– EMS Clinical Systems Chief
<input type="checkbox"/> Theodore Heyming, MD	– Board of Supervisors, Fifth District	Ruth Clark, RN	– EMS Trauma Coordinator
<input type="checkbox"/> Matt Armstrong	– Ambulance Association of Orange County	Adrian Rodriguez	– EMS Performance Chief
<input type="checkbox"/> Rebecca Firey	– American Red Cross	Meng Chung	– EMS Personnel Chief
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alan Albright, LMFT	– Orange County Behavioral Health Advisory Board	Maria Nava	– EMS Coordinator
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	– Orange County City Managers Association	Carissa Martinez	– EMS Office Specialist
<input type="checkbox"/> Chief Eric McCoy	– Orange County Fire Chief Association	Regina Chinsio-Kwong, MD	-- County Health Officer
<input type="checkbox"/> David Gibbs, MD	– Orange County Medical Association		
<input type="checkbox"/> Chief Stu Greenberg	– Orange County Police Chiefs' & Sheriffs Assn.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kim Zaky, DNP	– Orange Coast Emergency Nurses Association		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Luke Schademan, RN	– Hospital Association of Southern California		
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	– Orange County Business Council		
<input type="checkbox"/> Blair Stewart, Mayor	– City Selection Committee		
Guests Present			
Bill Weston	– Emergency Amb		
Vicki Sweet	– OCSA Air Support		
Laura Cross, RN	– Mission Hospital		
Danielle Boal	– Brea Fire		
Amanda Collins	– Rady		
Ryan Creager	– Mercy Air		
Steve Hurdle	– Lifeline EMS		
Sonam Wangyul	– Lynch EMS		
Chad Druten	– EAS/SCAA		
Olivia Alonso	– Coastline ROP		
Steve McNally			

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order at 9:02am by Michael Ritter, MD

2. INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Interim EMS Medical Director Dr. Almaas Shaikh
- New EMS Administrator Daniel McDonnell

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES *Recommended Action: Approval of Minutes*

Motion to approve *January 9, 2026*, EMCC Minutes by *Michael Ritter, MD* with correction to fix year on the head of page 2-4 from 2025 to 2026 - **Approved: 1st; 2nd none opposed.**

4. OCEMS REPORT

Medical Director's Report *by Almaas Shaikh, MD*

Dr. Shaikh has been in his role for about two months and is focused on internal alignment, organizational structure, and strategic EMS development. She is also prioritizing stronger partnerships and collaboration while spending the initial period understanding internal operations and managing urgent external needs. A Standing Orders Workgroup was formed to improve clarity and consistency and to enhance patient care through standardized protocols. Additionally, she aims to ensure meetings are intentional, goal-oriented, and impactful by leveraging the expertise within the group to address EMS challenges.

Health Disaster Preparedness Report *by Gagandeep Grewal, MD*

SB 43 has produced no significant system impact, which aligns with trends seen in other counties. The Triage to Alternate Destinations Program is progressing, with Anaheim training underway and a pilot launch expected in late May or June. AB1607 seeks to extend critical funding for hospitals, ERs, and EMS care for uninsured patients beyond its January 1, 2027 expiration, though county endorsement is still pending. Updated AB40 regulations are out for a 15-day public comment period, and stakeholders are encouraged to review and provide feedback. Chapter 6 regulations are being revised after rejection for inconsistencies, and updates to Chapter 3 are anticipated later this year.

APOT / Enhanced Diversion Reports *by Laurent Repass, NRP*

The state has taken over APOT reporting, and OCEMS will continue distributing state-generated APOT data through monthly letters. OCEMS has created real-time rolling 30-day dashboards that display transport volume, APOT metrics, transfer-of-care signature times, transport times, and back-in-service times. The committee reviewed and approved these dashboards for public release. Diversion reporting has also moved to automated dashboards, eliminating 10–15 hours of manual work each month. In addition, an All-Injuries Dashboard was introduced to show countywide injury trends using de-identified prehospital data.

5. EMCC ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE AND ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS

Facilities Advisory Committee *(March 10, 2026) by Ruth Clark, RN*

The committee reviewed dashboards, pediatric readiness updates, and Broselow tape recalls. Garden Grove Hospital was recommended for a 3-year conditional ERC redesignation. UCI's Pediatric Trauma Center was recommended for a 2-year unconditional redesignation following a successful ACS verification.

Medical Advisory Committee *(March 11, 2026) by Almaas Shaikh, MD*

The committee approved the IO procedure proposal update and adopted minor updates to the cardiac arrest policy. The measles exposure notification process was reviewed, with improvements currently underway. Additionally, after discussion, the group decided not to change destination policy for elderly fall patients with isolated head injuries who are on blood thinners.

County Prehospital Advisory Committee (*March 11, 2026*) by *Kristen Karpow, RN*

Magnesium use in pregnancy-related emergencies is still under internal review. The committee approved expanding the use of cell phones for hospital contact, pending final policy updates. A recent Stryker cyberattack was noted, though no data compromise has been confirmed.

Transportation Advisory Committee (*April 1, 2026*) by *Adrian Rodriguez*

The committee reviewed a 4.3% ground ambulance rate increase in accordance with Policy 714. Policy 777 is now open for a 50-day public comment period.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- #5821 EMS Administrator Announcement by *Almaas Shaikh, MD*
Dr. Shaikh introduced Daniel McDonnell and highlighted his 17 years of experience in EMS particularly in disaster management.
 - #5825 Ground Ambulance Rate increase information by *Adrian Rodriguez*
2026 Ambulance Rates Adjustment - Methodology 03.17.2026
Ground ambulance rate increase (4.3%) reviewed per Policy 714.
 - #5817 Policy 777.00 – 50 Day Public Comment Period by *Adrian Rodriguez*
777.0 FT-ALS (3-2026) DRAFT - Redline 03.20.2026
Policy 777 open for 50-day public comment.
 - #5826 Policy Update Reminder 04-2026 by *Almaas Shaikh, MD*
Standing Orders update memo reviewed and highlighted memo goes out April and October of every year. Added standardization and formalization of I15 and I20.
 - #5827 Policy Update 04-2026 by *Almaas Shaikh, MD*
Fixed dates on the policy update
 - Policy 300.31 OC-MEDS Data Dictionary / Change Log by *Laurent Repass, NRP*
Data dictionary updated for Nemesis 3.5.0.1 compliance (effective Nov 1).
 - EMS Survey by *Almaas Shaikh, MD*
Dr. Shaikh will be sending out a survey to gather input from stakeholders on the top one or two issues they believe need improvement within the EMS system. The goal is to identify common priorities, address long-standing frustrations, and ensure future meetings are purposeful, collaborative, and aligned with the committee's advisory mission. This survey will help guide focused discussions on meaningful, achievable system improvements.
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Recommended Action: Approvals

- **Garden Grove Hospital ERC Designation** by Ruth Clark, RN
Garden Grove Hospital underwent an ERC redesignation site visit on February 19 and was found to have three deficiencies, including APOT times consistently exceeding the 30-minute state threshold. Additional issues included low response rates for MCI drills and the absence of a required policy addressing infectious disease exposure for prehospital personnel, with corrective action plans due by June 1. Despite these deficiencies, the hospital demonstrated several strengths, and a 3-year conditional redesignation was recommended. **Approved; No oppositions**
- **UCI Health - Orange PedTC Designation** by Ruth Clark, RN
UCI Orange underwent an ACS Adult and pediatric trauma center review in February 2025, which identified one noncompliance issue related to the structure of their Pediatric PI program. Following a corrective action plan and a repeat site visit in January 2026, UCI demonstrated full compliance by establishing dedicated pediatric leadership and resources separate from the adult trauma program. ACS has now verified the center for two years through June 2028, and a 2-year unconditional county redesignation is recommended. **Approved; No oppositions**

7. MEMBER COMMENTS –

Kristen Karpow, EMS- Human trafficking training scheduled May 12 and 13 with registration forthcoming.

8. PUBLIC FORUM –

Speaker: Steve McNally

- Discussed 5150 transport processes, system navigation issues, capacity concerns, and documentation transparency.

Speaker: Olivia Alonso (Coastline ROP)

- Requested partnerships for EMS student ride along, advisory panels, and facility tours.

10. NEXT MEETING –Meeting scheduled for Friday, July 10, 2026, 09:00am at HCA, Marine Way Campus

11. ADJOURNMENT –meeting was adjourned at 10:26am
