



COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
8300 Marine Way, Suite 200, Irvine, CA 92618
(714) 834-3500



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, July 1, 2026 – 9:00am

MINUTES

MEMBERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CATEGORY REPRESENTED</u>	<u>ORANGE COUNTY EMS STAFF</u>
☒ Matt Armstrong, Chair	– S. California Ambulance Association	Almaas Shaikh, MD – Interim EMS Medical Director
☒ Ryan Creager	– Air Transport Provider	Daniel McDonnell, NRP – EMS Director
☐ Chad Druten	– Ambulance Service Provider 9-1-1	Gagandeep Grewal, MD – Associate EMS Medical Director
☒ Jacob Wagoner	– Ambulance Service Provider non- 9-1-1	Kristen Karpow, RN – EMS Clinical Chief
☐ Bryan Johnson, RN	– Fire Service Provider (with transport)	Ruth Clark, RN – EMS Trauma Coordinator
☒ Laura Cross, RN	– Mission Hospital	Stephanie King, RN – EMS Prehospital/CQI Coordinator
☒ Chris Childress, RN	– ED Nursing Leadership	Laurent Repass, NREMT-P – EMS Information & Analytics Chief
		Drew Bernard, EMT – EMS Specialist
		Sarkis Sarkisian, EMT – EMS Coordinator
		Lisa Wilson – Information Processing Technician

GUESTS PRESENT

NAME	REPRESENTING
Whitney Patnode	- Rady Children's Health
Heidi Ragas	- St. Jude
Jenael Rosenberg	- Hoag
Danielle Boal	- Brea Fire Department
Amanda Collins	- Rady Children's Health
Shane Ryan	- Falck
Julia Afrasiabi	- UCI
Lucas Herdeg	- American Professional Ambulance
Zach Regan	- Mercy Air
Ken Kaufmann	- Medtrans
Sarah Stratton	- Hoag Irvine
Brandon Ali	- Horizon OC
Alejandro Martinez	- Horizon OC
Steve Hurdle	- LifeLine Ambulance

I. **CALL TO ORDER** *he by Matt Armstrong (Chair)* – The meeting was called to order at 9:03am.

II. **INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS** *by Dr. Almaas A. Shaikh*: Stephanie King has returned from maternity leave.

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- *Action Item: Approval of April 1, 2026, Minutes* – The minutes were approved as submitted.

IV. **OCEMS REPORT**

- Medical Director Report *by Dr. Almaas A. Shaikh*
 - We are working on our standing orders, policies and procedures. Many of you sit on the ad hoc work group that has been created to address this. It was prioritized as one of our top items to address.

- EMS recognizes that we hold a lot of meetings. One suggestion is to combine FAC, TAC & CPAC. There is a lot of repetition in these meetings.
- We will no longer be printing agenda packets for everyone; just for committee members.
- EMS recognizes that we need a stroke assessment. We are in the process of establishing an RFP to see how that stroke needs assessment will be done in a transparent, accountable & responsible way. Similar conversations are occurring about trauma needs assessment but the stroke needs assessment will take precedence.
- EMS Report and Training Opportunities *by Dr. Gagandeep Grewal*
 - The AB40 APOT regulation went through the EMS commission last month and passed. EMTs giving Zofran also passed through the EMS commission. The chapter 3 regulations dealing with EMT scope of practice are going to be revised hopefully this year. There is a push on the EMSA side to adopt scope of practice to the national standard.
 - There is a tentative training for CHEMPACK on September 17, 2026. In late October, there will be a hospital disaster management CBRNE training. The California Hospital Association will hold their disaster conference on September 22nd & 23rd. Texas A&M Engineering & Extension Services is doing disaster trainings at Falck Educational Institute. There is one in September about PODS. There is one in October about pediatric disaster. There is one in December about bombing incidents.
- NEMSIS v3.5.1 and CEMSIS Migration Updates *by Laurent Repass*
 - We were supposed to make the transition to the latest version of NEMSIS v.3.5.1 by November. We have met that requirement. We are now sending all our data for the county to the state in that format. There are a couple of providers working to make that transition. The state is transitioning away from its previous version of the CEMSIS system and is requiring all local EMS agencies to migrate to a new instance of CEMSIS. We completed the new migration this week. We became aware that the latest version of Apple IOS for those who use ImageTrend Elite, our system for your PCR software update, is causing compatibility problems with our PCR system. Jason Azuma has sent out a notice regarding this. We encourage you to update to the latest version of IOS.
- OCEMS Policy Updates *by Ruth Clark*
 - Policy 309.00 aligns to state regulations to allow for additional public safety working dogs
 - Policy 310.00 was updated adding use of cellphones for paramedics as an alternate method of communication to an ERC for an ALS no contact type of patient. Cleaned up language regarding SNRC & CVRC diversion.
- OCEMS Standing Order Updates *by Ruth Clark*
 - Procedure B-009 was updated due to the update to Policy 309.00 for transport of the public safety working dog.
 - New SO Treatment Guideline Proposal Template: New format developed within the SO Workgroup committee merging ALS Standing Order with Base Hospital Treatment Guideline; there is a section on this treatment guideline for BLS Interventions.
 - SO-B-001 BLS Standing Orders: still working on redlines; plans to merge all BLS SO's into this one; changed #'s to bullet points; reconfigured language for vital signs; rearranged the list; added "transport pediatric patients utilizing an age- and size-appropriate restraint system (e.g., Neo-mate, Pedi-mate, car seat, etc).
 - Treatment Guideline E-005 Burns: In the BLS Interventions section it states to refer to SO-B-001 plus lists additional BLS Interventions pertinent to the care of burns.
 - Treatment Guideline E-010 Decompression Sickness: In the BLS Interventions section it states to refer to SO-B-001 plus lists additional BLS Interventions pertinent to the care of decompression sickness.
 - Treatment Guideline E-015 Drowning: In the BLS Interventions section it states to refer to SO-B-001 plus lists additional BLS Interventions pertinent to the care of drowning.

- Treatment Guideline E-025 Thermal Disorders: In the BLS Interventions section it states to refer to SO-B-001 plus lists additional BLS Interventions pertinent to the care of thermal disorders; added to the Additional Considerations section “monitor the skin if you apply ice packs for prolonged periods”.
 - Treatment Guideline E-030 Snake Envenomation: In the BLS Interventions section it states to refer to SO-B-001 plus lists additional BLS Interventions pertinent to the care of snake envenomation.
 - Treatment Guideline M-005 Abdomen Pain: In the BLS Interventions section it states to refer to SO-B-001 plus lists additional BLS Interventions pertinent to the care of abdomen pain.
 - Treatment Guideline M-010 Diabetic Emergencies: Was originally just for hyperglycemia and now includes hypoglycemia combining the two conditions; in the BLS Interventions section it states to refer to SO-B-001 plus lists additional BLS Interventions pertinent to the care of diabetic emergencies.
 - Treatment Guideline M-015 Allergic Reaction: In the BLS Interventions section it states to refer to SO-B-001 plus lists additional BLS Interventions pertinent to the care of allergic reaction; allows for BLS transport after Diphenhydramine is given as long as the allergic reaction is a skin based reaction, patient is stable with normal VS and no history of anaphylaxis in the adult patient.
- 2026 Emergency Ground Ambulance Rate Increase Policy 714.00 by *Drew Bernard*
 - Policy 714.00 went into effect today. At the previous TAC meeting, the methodology behind it was discussed.
 - Policy 777.00 15-Day Comment by *Laurent Repass*
 - It went out for public 15-day comment which has closed. There is now a second 15-day public comment period to further review this policy. We encourage you to look at our website. There was an announcement letter that went out on June 24th, 2026. The comment period is open 15 days from the 24th. It will close on July 9th at 8:00am.
 - Ambulance Inspection Updates and 2027 Renewals by *Drew Bernard*
 - In the county, we currently have 494 ground ambulances and 3 airships. There are 21 companies in total. We have 2 companies in the process of obtaining a BLS ground ambulance licensure. There are 8 IFT-ALS providers. We have 2 more since our previous TAC meeting – All Town and First Rescue. The plan for ground ambulance renewals is to have the applications sent out the week of July 20, 2026. When those applications are sent out, the provider will know their site and vehicle inspection dates. We are working on a new application for ground ambulances.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- No report

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- Maddy Fund Legislation Information by *Matt Armstrong*
 - AB1607 gives the county authorization to levy criminal fines to put money into this fund. This fund is then sent to the hospitals to offset costs for unfunded care. The bill is to push the expiration date of January 1, 2027, to January 1, 2037.
 - *Gagan Grewal*: The Maddy Fund law has initial funding, supplemental funding and Richie’s fund which supports pediatric centers. The supplemental funding and Richie’s Fund are due to expire at the end of this year (the original funding is permanent).
- Butterfly BVM Equipment by *Matt Armstrong*
 - Matt Armstrong is in a group in L.A. County that shows innovation and technology ideas. It has an adjustment unit to adjust the title volume. The BVM is good for all three sizes. Surveys were done. It received a 2.6 average score out of 5. There are concerns with space. You can’t keep it compressed to fit in an ambulance cabinet which creates a space problem. You cannot hyperventilate; it limits you to 20 breaths per minute.
- Vital Voice Technology by *Matt Armstrong*

- It is AI tech for language translation. When you are on the scene of a call, it has 50+ language capacity. It works off your cellphone. No connection is needed so you don't need Wi-Fi. You turn it on and when the patient speaks, the phone will automatically identify which language it is and translate back to you.
- Dr. Shaikh: Proposal presented to merge FAC, TAC & CPAC in order to address system complexities across the multiple partners in the EMS system in an efficient and collaborative effort while also preserving resources. details will need to be worked out in an organized fashion. MAC & EMCC will still stay separate as they are very specialized meetings. We will present the proposal to EMCC. It is up to them to say yay or nay. With permission from EMCC, we can pilot the merged meetings for one year.
- - Are there educational opportunities you would like us to bring to all of you? On the FAC side, one of the issues that came up was to get a better understanding of what EMTALA is. Can we bring someone in who can talk about EMTALA? Feel free to email feedback.

VII. NEXT MEETING

- October 7, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 9:55am by Matt Armstrong.