



Health Care Coalition of Orange County

General Meeting

Thursday, January 26, 2023 – 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order by Calvin Fakkema at 10:30 a.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Attendance information obtained from Zoom participant report
- New additions Genise Silva/Facilities Coordinator, and Mike Noone/Assistant Director

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- The October 27, 2022 minutes were approved

IV. EMS/HEM REPORT

- Dr. Grewal – COVID-19 case rates declining 6 cases per 100k
- Hospitalizations and ICU admissions declined when the BA5 variant of omicron was prominent
- We are now in the BQ variants of omicron as the most prominent
- XBB variant is the most prominent on the east coast, and accounts for 1/3 of the cases in California. As with other variants, it can cause surges as it has a growth advantage over prior variants
- Monoclonal antibodies are resistant to variants, but therapeutics still work
- We have seen a decline in RSV, rhinovirus, and enterovirus, which mainly had affected kids
- Influenza cases have dropped, and now we are in the low prevalence zone
- Monkeypox or Mpox has declined with only smattering of cases, but not at the desired level of zero for this virus
- WHO has declared the Ebola outbreak over; a reminder that we need to be vigilant about keeping our plans and training up to date on viral outbreaks
- The AOC is now deactivated from the viral surge and vaccination PODs ended last month. Public Health is now doing vaccinations in-house
- The warehouse has a surplus of PPE items available; mainly gowns and face shields.
- There are test kits available. The CDPH testing task force announced distribution would end soon but unclear when.
 - i. professional use BinaxNow test kits for facilities with CLIA waivers
 - ii. over the counter test kits for the uninsured and underinsured population
- Dr. Schultz – OCEMS will send a memo around February 1 outlining all the actions we will permit ambulance companies to take when trying to offload their hospital patients and get off the wall. We are working with several hospitals approaching 300 diversion hours monthly to bring those down to our target of around 200 hours
- Kevin Chao – The AOC had an internal reorganization for the HPP workflow, and on this team are Eddie Morales, Chad Cossey, and Chris Schuldes. This allows us to have a higher level of engagement with the healthcare coalition. So, look forward to more drills and exercises
- Chad Cossey – We will participate in the Statewide Medical Health Exercise on November 16, 2023

- The scenario is a chemical release that has not only chemical exposure injuries but thermal burn injuries as well; there is a requirement from CDPH that some of the victims also are pediatric patients.
- Keep an eye out for an initial, midyear, and final planning meeting and the exercise. All are encouraged to participate.
- Explained what a MSEL is for this group – Master Scenario of Events List

V. OLD BUSINESS

- No old business

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- Committee Reports
 - *Hospital – Chris Riccardi* – We had our meeting this morning and discussed the exercise scenario. Emergency Managers will participate in a Peds Surge at 1 pm, developed and led by Western Regional Alliance for Pediatrics Emergency Management (WRAP-EM).
 - *EMS – Teresa Polinski* – stepped down as Chair. At our last meeting, we discussed working on an overall disaster plan for the County; we used the burn disaster plan, considering we have a subject matter expert Dr. James Jeng/UCI.
 - *Julia Afrasiabi/UCI is the new Chair*
 - *Todd Costa/OCFA is the Co-chair*
 - *SNF/LTC – Paula Panganiban* – At our last meeting, we discussed setting goals for the year, increasing participation, and putting our efforts into doing outreach.
 - *Home Health Hospice – Mary Brackett* – Not present to report out.
 - *Outpatient, Dialysis – Jeanette Yocono/Ed Cvelich* – There is no report out; major transition in dialysis, and we will be fully involved in future meetings. Shared that they are struggling with the COVID-positive patients and dialyzing in an isolation room (10 days of cohorting). We await direction from CDC to dialyze patients in the regular population.
 - *Outpatient, Clinic/Urgent Care/Surgery – Adriana Nieto-Sayegh* – We met and are having a challenge increasing our participation. We discussed strategically planning and re-engaging all the community clinics and setting some goals.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

o Roundtable

- Mike Noone met with Kevin and Dr. Grewal after the reorganization. We will see how we can support you better, and you spread the word about the value of the healthcare coalition.
- Paula Panganiban, on the SNF side, we get this pressure when the hospitals are at surge capacity, and they can't take patients in their ER. We struggle with taking dialysis patients because of the fear they will get COVID, and CalOptima contracted transport won't take them to the dialysis clinic.
- Chris Riccardi advised Julia/EMS group please reach out; we will support you in any capacity
- Chris Riccardi hospitals to connect with Dialysis advisory group to determine dialysis capabilities to manage their patients in the event of a disaster; education would be helpful.
- Danny Concepcion St. Joseph Hospital is one of the few hospitals with a large outpatient and inpatient population. The COVID situation overwhelmed us, and we took immediate action. As a result, we can do inpatient emergency dialysis at a large capacity.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

- Thursday, April 27th, 2023

IX. ADJOURNMENT

- 11:05 a.m.