



## EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE

### Regular Meeting:

Friday,

April 22, 2011 - 9:00 a.m.

Location: 405 W. Fifth Street – Conference Room 433  
Santa Ana, CA 92705

## MINUTES

### MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE

#### MEMBERS

- Paul Chang, MD
- Cathy Green, RN, JD
- vacant
- Jon Gilwee
- John Schuetz, MD
- Debbie Graves
- Julie Wanstreet, RN
- Mary Botticella
- vacant
- Philip Davis
- Steve Nagel
- Peter Bastone
- Mark Pulone
- Bill Walker
- Bryan Hoynak, MD
- Chief Paul Henisey
- vacant

#### CATEGORY REPRESENTED

- Board of Supervisors, First District
- Board of Supervisors, Second District
- Board of Supervisors, Third District
- Board of Supervisors, Fourth District
- Board of Supervisors, Fifth District
- American Red Cross, OC Chapter
- Orange Coast Emergency Nurses Assn.
- Hospital Association of So. Calif.
- Society of OC Emergency Physicians
- Ambulance Association of OC
- League of California Cities
- OC Business Council
- OC City Managers Association
- OC Fire Chiefs Association
- OC Medical Association
- OC Police Chiefs/Sheriffs Assn.
- OC Senior Citizens Advisory Council

#### OCHCA STAFF

- Bob Wilson
- Ron Norby
- Holly Veale
- Terre Duensing
- Sam Stratton, MD
- Ken Miller, MD
- Jane Elder, RN
- Eileen Endo

#### OTHERS PRESENT

- Phil Robinson
- Bill Weston
- Jim Bailey
- Jim Ruane
- Jeanne Reinhardt
- Michael Dimas
- Scott Gordon, RN
- Rashmi Sreenivas
- Denise Mitchell, RN
- Gameua Forton
- Meunda Newton
- Sean Hakan
- Steve Katanich
- Kay Kearney
- Kathy Moran
- David Zenger

#### REPRESENTING

- HCA Assistant Director
- Medical Services Deputy Agency Director
- Medical Services Ops. Chief
- HDM Division Manager
- EMS Medical Director
- EMS Assistant Medical Director
- EMS Interim Program Manager
- EMS Office Specialist

- Doctor's Ambulance
- AAOC/Care Ambulance
- OCFA
- OCFA
- Smith Public Affairs
- Medix Ambulance
- Mercy Air
- UCI Emergency Medicine
- Anaheim Fire
- Loma Linda University EMS student
- Loma Linda University EMS student
- Loma Linda University EMS student
- Schaefer Ambulance
- AmeriCare Ambulance
- Board of Supervisors Dist. 2
- Board of Supervisors Dist. 4

### 1. EMCC MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Cathy Green, Chair.

### 2. INTRODUCTIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chief Walker reported that this was his last meeting as he has accepted a position with Alhambra Fire Department.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MSC** The February 25, 2011 minutes were approved as written.

### 4. OCEMS REPORT / CORRESPONDENCE

- OC-MEDS Update: reported by Jane Elder

The task force meets every 2-3 weeks to develop the electronic patient care record (ePCR). A committee identified five devices which fire department are now evaluating. The county has contracted with an educator to train field personnel on the equipment and to utilize the ePCR. We are moving forward with the data dispatch integration and we have taken ownership of a patient

registry for integration of data from the stroke, cardiac and trauma centers. We continue to work with grant applications for funding of this project.

- **Disaster Preparations:** *reported by Terre Duensing*  
The SONGS dress rehearsal and the FEMA graded exercise went very well and hit on the criteria that was being graded. Between the rehearsal, participants met and refined areas in preparation for the FEMA graded exercise. The next FEMA graded plume phase exercise is scheduled for 2013.
- **2009-2010 Influenza Season Hospital Diversion:** *reported by Dr. Sam Stratton*  
The mild flu season has resulted in fewer hospital diversions in Orange County. In late February and March there was an upper respiratory virus that spread throughout southern California that impacted the hospital system but now that has trended down and things appear to have stabilized.

## 5. **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Ground Ambulance Services Basic Life Support (BLS) Rates Adjustment and Advanced Life Support (ALS) Rate**

Terre Duensing provided an overview of the current ambulance rates and the proposed 2011 rate increases based upon the current Board of Supervisors approved methodology of the maximum allowable ground emergency ambulance rates where OCEMS reviews the all items Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County and multiplies this factor by 150%. The Orange County Fire Authority's maximum advanced life support (ALS) fee is calculated by the same percentage change as the maximum emergency BLS rate for the same period, but not to exceed the OCFA's actual costs for providing ALS services.

The calculated rate adjustment rates are:

	<u>Current Rate</u>	<u>Proposed Rate</u>	<u>Percent change</u>
Emergency BLS	\$671.75	\$711.50	5.91% increase
Mileage	\$ 15.50	\$ 16.50	6.45% increase
Oxygen	\$ 76.00	\$ 80.50	5.91% increase
Standby	\$ 37.50	\$ 39.75	6.00% increase
Expendable Medical Supplied	\$ 30.00	\$ 31.75	5.83% increase
Emergency ALS	\$355.75	\$376.75	5.90% increase

(Note: due to rounding to the nearest 25 cents, the percentage change may vary)

Bill Weston, representing the Ambulance Association presented the BLS ground ambulance service rates in Orange County with a summary of the rates throughout California.

Kathy Moran provided members with a handout on the Medicare reimbursement rates.

After discussion the members voted on the following:

**MSC Approve recommended proposed Ground Ambulance Services Basic Life Support (BLS) Rates to submit to the Orange County Board of Supervisors for consideration.**

(Unanimous with one abstention – Phil David)

Jim Ruane, Finance Division Manager for the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) gave a presentation on the advance life support / medical supplies proposed rates and supplied members with a handout on the information.

**MSC Approve recommended proposed Advanced Life Support (ALS) Rate to submit to the Orange County Board of Supervisor for consideration.**

(Unanimous vote)

Members also recommended that the process that the rates are calculated and the Medicare rates are brought back for discussion at the next meeting.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Paramedic Receiving Center Designation**

**MSC** Approved the Paramedic Receiving Center designation Garden Grove Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente – Irvine, La Palma Intercommunity Hospital and Fountain Valley Regional Medical Center for three years (March, 2011 – February 2014) as recommended by the Facilities Advisory Committee meeting on March 25, 2011.

**B. Anaheim Fire Department – Additional ALS paramedics units**

Denise Mitchell, EMS Manager for Anaheim Fire, summarized Anaheim Fire Department's request to add two paramedic units and modify an existing service. The changes involved upgrading three truck companies from BLS to ALS and removing an ALS engine from service. The result will be an additional ALS unit (Truck 1) at Anaheim Station, an additional ALS unit (Truck 2) at Anaheim Station 2, and a single ALS unit (Truck 8) at Anaheim Station.

**MSC** Approved recommendation on request for two additional ALS paramedics units and changing a BLS unit to an ALS unit.  
(Unanimous vote)

7. **EMCC ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE AND ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS**

*- Reported by Dr. Sam Stratton*

**A. Facilities Advisory Committee**

Recommended a change to emergency department physician call panels; this will require a change to the OCEMS policy which will be distributed for public comment. Specialty services may be further expanded with possible addition of vascular surgery. Discussed the impact to the local EMS agencies (LEMSA) if the Maddy Funds are redirected from the LEMSAs to the State General Fund.

**B. County Paramedic Advisory Committee** was cancelled.

**C. Education & Training Advisory Committee**

Discussed spinal immobilization.

**D. Transportation Advisory Committee**

Working on identifying landing zones for helicopters and equipment standards.

**E. Disaster Advisory Group** was cancelled.

**F. Trauma Operations Committee**

Discussed the recently implemented trauma triage guidelines which are the first guidelines in California that are in line with the National Standards. Dr. Miller will be doing a study to evaluate the effect on these changes. Mission Hospital and Western Medical – Santa Ana will have a verification review by the American College of Surgeons on May 23-24, 2011.

**G. Quality Assurance Board** was cancelled but will be gearing up for the implementation of OCMECS.

8. **MEMBER COMMENTS**

- Jane Elder reported that April 20 was the 2<sup>nd</sup> year anniversary of the stroke system in Orange County, a successful program which has served as a model for other areas wishing to implement a field-to-hospital triage program.
- Ms. Elder also reported that EMS is seeking persons for the vacant EMCC member positions. A replacement for Dr. Kahn who represented the Society of OC Emergency Physicians will go to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.
- Terre Duensing reported that EMS is in the process of interviewing for the EMS Program Manager.
- Cathy Green thanked Chief Walker for his service on EMCC.

- Members discussed the issue of being formal or casual at the meetings when addressing other members or guests.

9. **PUBLIC FORUM**

10. **NEXT MEETING** – June 24, 2011, at 9:00 a.m.

11. **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.