



EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES PROGRAM

County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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MINUTES/NOTES

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMISSION

DATE:	September 15, 2021	TIME:	8:30 AM
PLACE:	Virtual Meeting Used for Social Distancing		

ITEM:

1. Call to Order/Establish Quorum, Review/Correct Agenda, Minutes– [8:30 am] – Quorum not achieved. Notes were taken for the meeting.
2. Written Correspondence Report –
3. Oral Communications – Chris Jones announced her retirement after 40+ years. AMR is recruiting for her position. She will be greatly missed and the EMCC wished her well with her retirement.
4. COVID-19 Update –
 - a. Update – Dr. Ghilarducci – Pressure on hospitals due to staffing challenges, a death yesterday in young person. Delta still out there.
 - b. <https://www.santacruzhealth.org/HSAHome/HSA Divisions/PublicHealth/CommunityDiseaseControl/CoronavirusHome.aspx>
5. EMS Administrator Report – Process of scheduling meeting with Fire and AMR to explore process for EMTs and medics to work in hospitals when there are staffing crises. Hospitals are very full and could use help. Question about whether or not EMDAC is doing something about this statewide – using paramedics and EMTs in hospitals. EMSA has extended optional scope to work in sites. Marc – what are criteria to ask for military assistance to ask for techs and therapists? During previous surge last year with SNFs – Cal Guard was available for assistance. Brenda will explore possibilities. There was an announcement in a MHOAC meeting that Cal Guard is not available at this time and that CalMat is also not available. The state does not have that cache of resources anymore. State pushed out list of agencies for hospitals to use for nurses. Dominican – to access the list of agencies would require agreements with each of the organizations. The MHOAC route is simpler as it requires only one agreement through the State. There have also been reports that other hospitals have used the state-provided list of agencies but that very few nurses were available and that those were available were quickly sent elsewhere. There are areas in the US right now that are in a severe staffing crisis so those areas are probable consuming this scarce resource.
6. EMCC Commissioner Openings – Law, Fire – Confirmed with clerk of the board that those openings still exist and still waiting for Watsonville Hospital approve new CEO. Letter will be forwarded to Brenda this week. Amy Grooters will be Watsonville's representative.

Need letter from Fire to appoint a fire representative (Jason Nee). Brenda will reach out to the SO for a representative instead of CHP.

7. Prehospital Advisory Committee – Dave posted brief notes from the August 16th PAC meeting:

PAC – need to establish connections with the 3 Santa Clara trauma centers.

QRV: patient assessment most important. Small number of calls, still sending the resources. AED capable of delivering shock. (semi automatic) and short list of drugs.

Lifepack/Imagetrend....working on connection issues...3G is being retired... fork in the road between 4g cellular and WiFi

HIE...some frustration with connecting with HIE, 4 identifiers, too much information.

Need training for uploads, posting, HIE,

Would like to add Code Stat software....need to resource this. To record events during CPR case, depth of compression, rate of compression – great quality tool.

Marc: Add Trauma to agenda...need trauma report

Need statistics...

Policy and Protocols: Pain medications, iGel airway (next meeting)

QIC

Change in some measures for 2022 (decide late fall)

Hypoglycemia:

Cardiac arrest: code stat

HEMS

Stanford Lung transplants, ECMO (10-11 patient on circuit)

Impact on fatigue on crews wears on them...trying to keep them balanced

Hiring process is difficult for flight crews

Transitioning onboard blood products...transitioning to whole blood. (low titer low blood)

8. Watsonville Hospital Update – Still working with traveling agencies – have onboarded 9 nurses this week in two weeks will have a dozen more.
9. Behavioral Health Update and Impact on EDs – Marc Yellin – last week email sent from Telecare for urgent meeting – are dealing with the same problems as everyone else – challenges in staffing needs have impacted services. Specifically with dealing with minors – one of the advances – previously could only take one minor or two and now can take 4 minors. Capacity of CSP side is 12 so if have 4 minors, have 8 adults. What happens if Law comes in with another minor...In DH ED – huge increase in transferring out of county for 5150s, increasing length of stays. 6 or 7 were held the other night in ED waiting for assistance. MERT – from County – limited hours, also having staffing problems with 2 open positions. Request for 7 days a week. County interested in whether hospital could admit minors to hospital but still no psychiatric emergency evaluation. County also shared that tertiary care receiving facilities are cutting back on beds and availability due to staffing and COVID- related restrictions. Impact to DH is increasing length of stay and transfers out of county. Eric C – also seeing that Sheriff’s Office has had conversations with their legal – if SO writes the hold, they are staying with the patient in the ED and then taking the patient directly to the CSP which impacts the CSP patient flow. ED sends charting and then CSP reviews and can take many hours before accepting patient. No other law agency takes patients to the CSP after clearance from ED. County also looking for back up ambulance transport providers. Many ambulance providers no longer provide this service. Many are dropping IFTs. Central Coast is still holding on. Can’t increase bed capacity in our county. When the MERT team was in the ED 7 days a week it significantly reduced the number of 5150s that need to be transported/transferred. Telepsych has been another consideration – to try to determine which people don’t need to be transported. Marc will report back about Telepsych.
10. ET3 – Chris Jones – CMS retracted a lot of ET3 projects but Santa Cruz is one of 180+ that were approved. Santa Cruz AMR has a contract with Doctors on Duty for alternate

destination. Have reached out to County EMS for policies and protocols to determine which patients can be transported to Doctors on Duty.

11. Innovator – Actively recruiting for Innovator – searching nationally through JEMS and through counties.
12. HIE – Finishing the grant final report. Hope to hear about potential maintenance funding.
13. Radio System Infrastructure – contract for Z consulting came before Board for approval yesterday. Kevin Bowling, Director of ISD thanked the EMCC for support for the process. Brenda spoke at in favor of the contract at the Board's meeting. Brenda informed the Board of Supervisors of the impact of gaps in the current radio coverage on the public and resulting safety issues.
14. Items for October Agenda – Next meeting October 20, 2021 - keep Behavioral Health, Take HIE off and just do in announcement area – approval of meeting minutes for August.
15. Adjournment –

Commissioners in attendance:

Kent Benedict, MD
Marc Yellin, MD

Celia Barry
Arnold Leff, MD

Chris Jones
Eric Conrad, RN

Commissioners excused:

Dan Quinto
Rich Rubin
Michael McGannon
Marcus Kwan

County Staff:

Brenda Brenner
Dave Ghilarducci
Shelley Huxtable

Guests:

Brad Cramer
Michael Baulch
Matko Vranjes
Becky Shoemaker
Chris Stubendorff
Jeff Horner
Michael Beaton