



# County of Santa Cruz



## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY Emergency Medical Services

1800 Green Hills Rd., Suite 240, Scotts Valley, CA 95066  
Phone:(831) 454-4120 TDD/TTY: Call 711

### EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMISSION

### MINUTES

**February 26, 2024 9:00am – 10:12am**

#### COMMISSIONERS:

|   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
|   | <i>Open Position, M. Koenig, Dist. 1</i>    | X | Chris Clark, Law Enforcement               |
| X | Celia Barry, Z. Friend, Dist. 2 – CO-CHAIR  | X | Jason Nee, Fire Chief’s Assoc. – CO-CHAIR  |
| X | Dr. Marcus Kwan, J. Cummings, Dist. 3       | X | Eric Conrad, Dominican Hospital            |
|   | <i>Open Position, F. Hernandez, Dist. 4</i> |   | <i>Open Position, Watsonville Hospital</i> |
| X | Dr. Arnold Leff, B. McPherson, Dist. 5      | X | Jeremy Boston, AMR                         |
| X | Dr. Marc Yellin, Medical Society            |   | <i>Open Position, Consumer Rep.</i>        |
|   | <i>Open Position, Field Rep.</i>            |   |  |

X = in person attendance  
R = remote attendance

#### COUNTY STAFF:

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| X | Greg Benson, EMS Director                                     | X | Dr. David Ghilarducci, Medical Director |
| X | Claudia Garza, Sr. Dept. Admin. Analyst                       | X | Shelley Huxtable, Office Assistant III  |
| X | Dr. Lisa Hernandez, Medical Services Director, Health Officer | X | Anna Sutton, Director of Nursing        |
| X | Emily Chung, Director of Public Health                        |   |   |

#### ITEM:

- Meeting was called to order at 9:05am and a Quorum was established by Commissioner Barry.
- Review/Correct Agenda** – Minutes from October 2023 meeting need to be approved at next meeting in April.  
Agenda Item 5 deferred to April meeting.
- Written Correspondence** – None
- Oral Communications** – Commissioner Clark mentioned the new Fentanyl Crisis Team the Sheriff’s Office has created. It’s a 5-member team comprised of detectives to help with OD and harm reduction in our community. Commissioner Clark will make a formal presentation to the EMCC at the April meeting.

Commissioner Barry asked about the status of the AMR Contract. Greg Benson confirmed that it has been extended in January for 30 months, with the option for one renewal.

**5. Dominican Hospital Cardiac Program Changes has been deferred to the April meeting.**

**6. Direction of the EMCC** – Greg Benson explained this commission was slated to be sunsetted with a few other commissions. Due to lobbying by a few commissioners to the BOS, this commission has been kept alive. The County is working on creating by laws. What objectives does the group want to accomplish? Do we continue with 2 co-chairs? 1 co-chair? Secretary? The commission needs to vote on these positions.

Commissioner Barry reminded the group that a quorum must be in person and asked about a South County meeting location – WCH? However, the location must have Teams capability and audio only, if needed.

Numerous open positions – how are they going to be filled? Commissioner Conrad put a call in to someone he knows at WCH ED.

Need to add Field Representative to the open position list.

Commissioner Kwan asked about the consumer rep possibly a retired doctor from the Santa Cruz County Medical Society.

Scott Vahradian said we need fresh eyes with new vision for the EMCC. EMS heads the EMCC and sets the tone – what projects/systems does EMS need the EMCC's help with? One area is ambulance fees – ground and air.

Emily Chung asked about reconsidering the EMCC as a formal BOS commission. Are there other ways to have this commission without being a BOS commission?

Advocacy group? Explore other options for the group that are not as binding with Brown Act Rules.

Commissioner Nee stated Brown Act Rules have strict limits on meeting discussions and make it a challenge to effect change. By laws will be helpful to see what works for master and strategic plans, 3-5 year plans with items in alignment with the mission and values of the commission.

Dr. Ghilarducci stated in the last 10 years, public input at these meetings has been very rare. It's not effectual for this group.

Commissioner Barry stated the EMCC supports and help EMS, there is no other group/commission in the county that does this.

**7. Program Updates:**

**A. Covid-19/Flu/RSV Update and Prehospital Advisory Committee Updates, Dr. David Ghilarducci.**

Narcan is not a solution – it only works if someone is there to administer it immediately.

After patient is feeling better, get them to the ED and get into treatment.

Handtevy app – all protocols are on the app, should be in the field in the next 1-2 months.

Brad and Scott will be doing a Spring Road Show.

Toradol is another non-narcotic pain med given through IV.

Shigella outbreak continues to spread throughout county, health alert has been issued, there is no containment, we need to education outreach.

DOC has been activated at low level 3.

There is no official health release, the health alert is on social media and the Sentinel. Alerts are sent out through the PIO.

Commissioner Leff asked if Environmental Health can help.

Emily asked about a Hep A vaccine and talking with shigella patients about it. Wash stations will be placed at encampment at Harvey West Park. We may have a covid uptick in March.

**B. EMS Administrator Report, Greg Benson** – See Item 6 above.

**C. ET3 and Innovator Report, Jeremy Boston** – New Innovator has been hired, should be starting within a week, more information at next meeting.

**D. Behavioral Health Update, Dr. Marc Yellin** –

No Update.

WCH temporarily taking peds patients.

Commissioner Conrad said there is no staff and no contract in place and there are delays.

**8. Proposed Agenda Items for next EMCC meeting** –

Commissioner Clark will do a presentation on the new Fentanyl Crisis Team the Sheriff's office has created.

EMCC By laws update.

Jerry Souza, Dominican Hospital to introduce new ED Director, Patrick King and discuss changes to the cardia program's certification that will affect WCH and EMS.

**9. Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 10:12am.