



# 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

### October 21, 2024 9:00am – 10:15am

#### COMMISSIONERS:

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

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	Emily Chung, Director of Public Health		

#### ITEM:

1. Meeting was called to order at 9:00am and a Quorum was established by Commissioner Nee.

**2. Review/Correct Agenda –**

Approved, motion made by Commissioner Prince, Seconded by Commissioner Yellin.

**3. Written Correspondence – None**

**4. Oral Communications –**

Commission Yellin - brought up the open commissioner positions. How to motivate the BOS to fill the positions.

Greg Benson - there was a snafu with some recent commissioner applications and it’s being worked out ASAP.

Commissioner Barry - Dominican ED/Diversion article in The Lookout and the chatter on Next Door. Does the EMCC have a response to this?  
Commissioner Prince – what about a rebuttal to the article?

#### **5. Strategic Planning Kick-off Discussion from August Meeting –**

Greg Benson - any questions or comments or more time needed.  
Commissioner Nee - continue the discussion and prioritize which points would be most useful to the EMCC.  
Greg Benson - we can bring Pam back to facilitate a follow-up discussion.  
Commissioner Yellin - that would be good for some fine tuning.  
Commissioner Prince - sub groups for the action plan.  
Greg Benson - likes Commissioner Prince's idea of sub groups.  
Commissioner Prince - volunteered to head an Ad-Hoc group, which is not a Brown Act group. Members of the Ad-Hoc group are Commissioner Prince, Barry, Baulch and Yellin.  
Commissioner Nee - agreed that Commissioner Prince will chair the Ad-Hoc group.  
Sam Moeller is not yet a commissioner, but would like to volunteer to be part of the Ad-Hoc group.

#### **6. Draft of Annual Diversion Report –**

Greg Benson - the year-to-date is not updated. Both hospitals have seen this report. During covid, this report was not updated. Input was received from both hospitals. This report should be attached to the biennial report to the BOS.  
Commissioner Barry - suggested Diversion be explained to the BOS, how many patients are diverted, analysis of patients diverted related to patient care.  
Commissioner Yellin – There are errors that are registered as diversion, but were not on diversion.  
Events must be input with Dr and nurse sign off.  
If both hospitals are on diversion, both will be forced open.  
Commissioner Baulch - there are other reports to run on this.  
Sam Moeller - what about the financial strain on patients who are diverted to hospitals that are farther away.  
Dr Ghilarducci - patients who have had surgery at one hospital, are discharged home. Then develop complications and are transported to secondary hospital because surgical hospital on diversion. Once off diversion, they are then transported back to surgical hospital. Common themes to improve – ambulance liaison nurse at triage.  
Paul Angelo - triage in field and give advanced notice to ED w/critical patients.  
Commissioner Conrad - have a charge nurse, another triage and IV's to the lobby possibly.  
Commissioner Yellin - would like more detail on diversion.  
Commissioner Barry - suggested EMCC continue to evaluate this issue for patient safety.  
Commissioner Nee asked for vote if EMCC is OK w/report as is or come back to it later. OK with edits.  
Commissioner Baulch - made the motion, Commissioner Conrad seconded the motion, all approved.

#### **7. EMCC Biennial Report is due for 2023/2024 –**

Greg Benson - BOS requested this report, due January 31, 2025. The content comes from the EMCC.

Commissioner Nee - will create the report with the help of Commissioners Barry and Yellin.

### **8. Commissioner Chair Person Election –**

Two year term.

Commissioner Yellin nominated Commissioner Nee to continue being Chair Person and Commissioner Prince to be Co-Chair. All commissioners approved this vote.

### **9. Program Updates –**

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

Summer surge of respiratory illness ended in August, consequences of covid much less, no impact like in the past.

Pre-hospital action – optimize pre-hospital care, utilize BLS rigs. Need more efficient ways to respond to calls.

Masking mandates in healthcare facilities, regardless of vaccine status.

Commissioner Prince - Code 3 Study. Fire is at 8% without lights/sirens, AMR is at 27% without lights/sirens. Goal is 50%.

Dr. Ghilarducci announced he will be leaving his position as the County EMS Medical Director, no date on when his last day will be.

#### **B. EMS Administrator Report, Greg Benson.**

FirstWatch data is useful data, new dashboard might be ready to show at next meeting. More filtering is needed for our unique data.

CHP concerned about different dispatch center.

Netcom to classify precautionary single engine response.

Annual report for layperson to understand EMS.

Saline shortage not looking good regionally. MHOAC has a few requests.

Manufacturer has international supply coming in now.

#### **C. ET3 and Innovator Report, Jeremy Boston.**

Jake is updating the frequent flyer list, patients are getting the resources they need.

### **8. Proposed Agenda Items for next EMCC meeting on December 9, 2024 –**

Ad Hoc Report.

Biennial Report.

Operational review on Diversion.

Commissioner Yellin – Pediatric mental health at WCH still happening? Are they going to continue to accept pediatric patients?

Commissioner Conrad – there are conversations with the Board about continuing to finance the program to keep it open.

Danielle Lucchesi – WCH is continuing the program, signing the renewal shortly.

### **9. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 10:15am**