



San Bernardino County Emergency Medical Care Committee



March 30, 2010

San Bernardino County
Board of Supervisors
385 North Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415

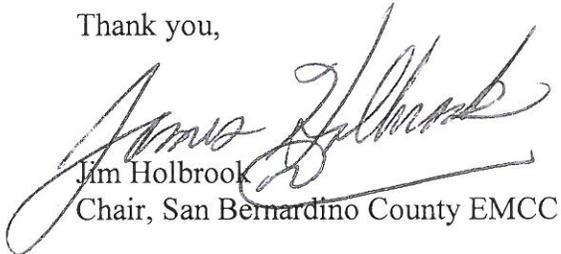
Dear Members of the Board:

RE: EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE - 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

Enclosed for your review is the 2009 Annual Report for the San Bernardino County Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC).

Please contact me electronically at jholbrook@craftonhills.edu or by telephone at (909) 389-3251 if I can assist you.

Thank you,


Jim Holbrook
Chair, San Bernardino County EMCC

JH/jlm

Enclosure

cc: Virginia Hastings, Executive Director, ICEMA
Reza Vaezazizi, MD, Medical Director, ICEMA
EMCC Official File



SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE

2009
ANNUAL REPORT



INTRODUCTION

This writing is to document the San Bernardino County Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC) processes for 2009. Essentially the focus of the EMCC was to provide a platform for the diverse groups and individuals which form the Emergency Medical Services System, and also in the official capacity as an advisory group to the Board of Directors for Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency (ICEMA).

The distinction between Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Emergency Medical Care (EMC) needs to be reinforced. Emergency Medical Services are those processes that provide oversight and various components of infrastructure, where Emergency Medical Care is the effective and reliable treatment of ill or injured people. The bridge between these diverse constructs is multi-organizational where the relationship is both independent and interdependent. The system and individual complexity and requirements will continue to bring unique challenges to the region.

Our system continues to mature and is more formally exploring patient outcomes and other evidence based processes. San Bernardino County Emergency Services continues to advance the care and other services to ill or injured.

EMCC MEMBERSHIP

The 2009 EMCC members were:

Emergency Room or Trauma Physician - Chad Clark
EMS Nurse - Kelly Bernatene
Fire Chief - Bill Smith
Private Ambulance Provider - Diana McCafferty
EMS Training Institution - Jim Holbrook
Hospital Administrator - James Holmes
Law Enforcement - Stephen Miller
Emergency Dispatch or Communications Center - Rick Britt
Consumer Advocate - Mark Cantrell
Physician - Troy Pennington
City Manager - Vacant
Air Ambulance Provider - Marie Podboy
Locally Accredited Paramedic - Art Andres

The EMCC position representing City Manager went unfilled during the 2009 sessions. Bill Smith representing Fire Chiefs resigned and Mike Smith has been approved by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors to fill this position. Both Chad Clark representing Emergency Room Physicians and Mark Cantrell representing Consumer Advocate have formally resigned and no replacements have been approved.

All EMCC members are required to comply with the requirement for Ethics training as defined by Article 2.4 of Chapter 2 of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5 of the Government Code (AB 1234).

MANPOWER AND TRAINING

Both on-line and off-line medical control protocols continue to assure medical control of emergency medical care. A series of protocols, both regular updates and emergency protocols, were discussed during the 2009 EMCC sessions. The protocol changes were stimulated by changes in scientific or local system needs. A statewide implementation of the Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) form and process was fully implemented as required by AB3000. Additionally a process for influenza-like illnesses and other airborne infections was implemented.

Emergency medical care and quality patient outcomes and the measurements of those outcomes are continuing to advance within the system. The implementation of an accurate measure and documentation of outcomes of emergency medical care were more fully realized system wide and will remain a dynamic process. Following the full system wide implementation of data collection the review of system and quality assurance measures will need to be added to the processes already instituted.

The local training institutions, Victor Valley and Crafton Hills College, have implemented student training sessions on the use of electronic patient care documentation. The system continues through local provider and hospital based agency processes to forward the educational and training needs of the basic and advanced life support personnel system wide.

COMMUNICATIONS

The ability to communicate system issues including waiting to off load patients has shown progress as our larger system continues to meet these system challenges. Our entire system continues to explore and advance in the communication between all groups.

TRANSPORTATION

There were no new discussions on performance-based contracts or the restructuring of exclusive operating areas within the system during the 2009 sessions. There were committee deliberations on new permit requests for both air ambulance provider and special permits. Funding from the performance-based fines was added to other funding sources to augment the personnel and system needs of the region.

ASSESSMENT OF HOSPITALS AND CRITICAL CARE CENTERS

As a standing committee report to the EMCC, hospital diversion data and provisional trauma reports were presented. Our system continues to face the same challenges as other emergency service systems trying to deal reliably with pre-hospital patient numbers and needs.

MEDICAL CONTROL

Medical control continues to be provided through protocols and system review. During the 2009 EMCC sessions medical control systems advanced in four significant areas:

- 1) STEMI
- 2) 12 Lead ECG Competencies
- 3) Zofran Trail Study
- 4) Annual Review Classes

These significant changes involved both the organizational and engineering controls necessary for reliable implementation.

DATA COLLECTION AND EVALUATION

Our system continued to document progress in data collection and analysis during the 2009 sessions. Substantial agency(s) and personnel time were required in order to accurately collect, review, analyze, and compile reports for various discussions and decision making loops. Continuing efforts have been made toward fully implementing electronic collection system wide. The system is moving out of the initial phase and some system outcome data exist.

The transportation industry continues to be further along on the continuum of electronic transfer than public response agencies. During the 2009 session the following San Bernardino County providers are sending data to the ICEMA server on a daily basis:

- 1) American Medical Response (AMR) Rancho
- 2) AMR Redlands
- 3) AMR Victorville
- 4) Baker EMS - Baker
- 5) Baker EMS - Needles
- 6) Barstow Fire Department
- 7) Big Bear City Fire Valley Paramedic Service
- 8) Big Bear Lake Fire Protection District
- 9) Desert Ambulance
- 10) Morongo Basin Ambulance Association
- 11) Morongo Valley Fire Department
- 12) Running Springs Fire Department
- 13) San Bernardino City Fire Department
- 14) San Manual Fire Department

Memorandum of Understandings and full implementation is expected for the following agencies:

- 1) CAL Fire City of Highland Fire Department
- 2) CAL Fire City of Yucaipa Fire Department
- 3) Sheriff's Aviation
- 4) Upland Fire Department

The following providers will be sending data to ICEMA as part of Confire:

- 1) Colton Fire Department
- 2) Loma Linda Fire Department
- 3) Redlands Fire Department
- 4) Rialto Fire Department

The following fire departments are pending the outcome of Confire testing:

- 1) Chino Fire Department
- 2) Crest Forest Fire Department
- 3) Montclair Fire Department
- 4) Ontario Fire Department
- 5) Rancho Cucamonga Fire Department

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

As reported in past reports, due to changes in the administrative and structural process of the American Heart Association and other large network training agencies, an accurate number of individuals trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid are not and will not be available.

DISASTER RESPONSE

During this past year our local agencies responded to significant regional and state-wide large scale issues including the potential for significant threats. Chino Fire Department and the California Institution for Men presented on overview of the multi-agency response to the prison riot.

CONCLUSION

It has been the goal of the EMCC to allow broad-based system participation and discussions. It is our sense that these activities have advanced our local system. The EMCC applauds our system and the participants as an amazing collection of the best and brightest in California.