



**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE**

**2007
ANNUAL REPORT**



INTRODUCTION

The San Bernardino County Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC) participated in the local Emergency Medical system by providing a communication platform for the diverse groups which form our Emergency Medical Services System, and in the official capacity as an advisory group to the board of directors for Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency. The purpose of this document is to summarize our processes for 2007.

There are differences between the various oversight agencies, state and national, as to what defines the Emergency Medical Services system (EMS) components. The California Health and Safety Code 1797.103 defines the components of EMS as:

- (a) Manpower and training.
- (b) Communications.
- (c) Transportation.
- (d) Assessment of hospitals and critical care centers.
- (e) System organization and management.
- (f) Data collection and evaluation.
- (g) Public information and education.
- (h) Disaster response.

As our systems continues to mature and more formally explore patient outcomes, the distinction between Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Emergency Medical Care (EMC) needs to be reinforced. Emergency Medical Services are those process that provide the 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 yet interdependent. This complexity will continue to bring unique challenges to San Bernardino County. It is the opinion of the San Bernardino County Emergency Medical Care Committee that both emergency medical care and emergency medical services in San Bernardino County are among the finest in the state.

EMCC MEMBERSHIP

The 2007 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 - Hector Rodriguez
Air ambulance provider - Marie Podboy
Locally accredited paramedic - Art Andres

The EMCC had all positions filled during the 2007 sessions. This is a significant change over past years. The EMCC workshop identified during the 2006 discussions has been agenzized for this year. The workshop was postponed during the 2007 sessions until all members were appointed. The purpose of the workshop will be to review our role and responsibilities to the system.

All of the current members have complied with the requirement for Ethics training.

Manpower and Training

Both on-line and off-line medical control protocols continue to assure medical control of EMC. A series of protocols were discussed during the 2007 EMCC sessions. These protocols were stimulated by changes in the guidelines and scientific knowledge for emergency cardiac care.

Emergency medical care and quality patient outcomes and the measurements of those processes have been a continuing discussion. The full implementation of an accurate measure and documentation of both the processes and outcomes of reliable emergency medical care remains a dynamic process as our system continues to refine and collect usable statistical evidence.

Communications

The ability to communicate system status to include waiting to off load patients continues to be reviewed and modified to meet the system needs. Our system continues to advance in the communication between all related groups.

Transportation

There were no new discussions on performance based contracts or the restructuring of exclusive operating areas within the system during the 2007 sessions. 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.

Medical Control

The ICEMA medical director continues to advance the system using his leadership processes. Medical control continues to be provided through protocols and system review. Many of the advanced life support providers are converting from the ICEMA medical director to individual agency medical directors for securing narcotics.

Data Collection and Evaluation

Our system has made significant progress in data collections and data analysis during the 2007 sessions. Substantial agency(s) and personnel time and efforts will continue to be required in order to accurately collect, review, analyze, and compile reports for various discussions and decision making loops.

Substantial efforts have been made with new forms of electronic collection. The system is moving out of the initial phase and beginning processes and outcome can be expected. The transportation industry is further along on the continuum of electronic transfer than other responding agencies. Those other agencies are completing memorandums of understanding and continuing to have the necessary dialog toward solving the inter-operability of the system needs.

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 training agencies, an accurate number of individuals trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid are not and will not be available.

Disaster Response

The local system continues to advance in the structure and function of disaster response. During this past year, our local agencies responded reliably and effectively to significant regional and state-wide large scale issues.

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. We look forward to 2008 and new opportunities to grow. Finally we applaud our system as an amazing collection of the best and brightest.