



## COUNTY OF IMPERIAL

# PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY

ROBIN HODGKIN, M.P.A.

*Director*

STEPHEN W. MUNDAY, M.D., M.P.H.

*Health Officer*

BRUCE HAYNES, M.D.

*EMS Medical Director*

CEDRIC CESEÑA, EMT-P

*EMS Manager*

### Emergency Medical Care Committee

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Public Health Training Center

935 Broadway, El Centro

09:00 AM

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#### Agenda

- 1) Call to Order & Introduction of Committee Members and Guests
- 2) Review and Approve Minutes of September 12, 2013 Meeting
- 3) Old Business
  - i. Controlled Medication Resupply, Exchange, and Storage
  - ii. EMCC Membership Vacancies
  - iii. EMS Protocol Update Committee
- 4) New Business
  - a. EMS Update
    - i. EMS System Design Taskforce
    - ii. EMS Manager Position
- 5) Member Roundtable Reports
- 6) Announcements & Public Comment
- 7) Agenda Items for Next Meeting
- 8) Adjournment

**Please Note: The next EMCC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 13, 2014.**

# Imperial County Emergency Medical Care Committee Meeting Minutes December 12, 2013

## Members Present:

Robin Hodgkin, Director  
Bruce Haynes, Medical Director  
Danielle Walls  
Rick Goldsberry

Imperial County Public Health Department  
Imperial County EMS Agency  
El Centro Regional Medical Center  
Imperial Valley College

## Guests Present:

Chris Herring  
Laura Green  
Gerardo Ibarra  
Oscar Garcia  
Cedric Ceseña  
Sergio Cardenas  
Tony Rouhotas  
Allen Francis

Pioneers Memorial Hospital District  
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El Centro Regional Medical Center  
El Centro Fire Department  
REACH Air Ambulance  
Imperial County Fire Department/OES  
California Correctional Health Care Services

Robin Hodgkin with ICPHD called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Introduction of members and guests took place. Motion was made by Cedric Ceseña and seconded by Chris Herring to approve the Minutes of the September 12, 2013 meeting without changes.

## Controlled Medication Resupply, Exchange, and Storage

Dr. Haynes with Imperial County EMS Agency stated that due to the Gold Cross strike, changes for the controlled medication resupply was delayed. He requested a list of provider contacts needing the DEA license to order morphine. He said thus far, he had a contact from the Calexico, El Centro and County Fire Department. Dr. Haynes affirmed that he started to fill out the license application, but will need to get a separate DEA license to each location where narcotics can be delivered. Since those licenses would go under his name, he stated that it is necessary to see that these licenses are delivered to the correct person and that the assigned person confirms with him upon the license arrival.

Danielle Walls with ECRMC mentioned that the Pharmacists requested a time line to know when they will no longer be re-supplying controlled medication. Dr. Haynes said that once he gets all the contact information, these should start getting processed. Dr. Haynes estimates that by January 2014 the licenses will be processed. Danielle said that transitioning into the Versed as of January would be good, as it would alleviate Pharmacists' concerns with in ECRMC.

Dr. Haynes added that for other equipment and supplies, such as IV fluids, those could be purchased from different vendors and faxed to him so that he could provide the approval for a year. Regarding other controlled substances, such as Midazolam, a DEA 2-2-2 license would not be needed and agencies can fill out the prescription sheet and Dr. Haynes can send the authorization immediately.

## EMCC Membership Vacancies

Robin Hodgkin with ICPHD explained that there are some vacancies in the EMCC Membership. Cedric Ceseña with El Centro Fire Department followed by mentioning that the EMCC membership should be made up of various entities including members from the Medical Society, Business Representative, Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS) provider representatives, Hospital representatives, Air Medical providers, First Response providers, Law Enforcement, and Border Star/Border Patrol representatives.

Robin stated that it would be beneficial to have ALS/BLS representatives from different demographic areas by broadening EMCC meetings to have different voices on the table. The idea is to amplify topics that provide value for the field providers as well as the key stakeholders. Having both perspectives from key players is

important as field providers can advocate for changes in protocols, provide input on problems that occur between transport and first responders, and provide the perspective from the field. Once the EMCC committee creates its membership, the membership would have to be reported to the Board of Supervisors so that they may approve of it.

### **2013 EMS Protocol Update Committee**

Danielle Walls with ECRMC mentioned that the Protocol Update Committee met. Currently, members in the Protocol Update Committee include a representative from PMH, ECRMC, EMS Manager, Gold Cross, Naval Air Facility (NAF), Calexico, REACH Air, Border Patrol and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Cedric Ceseña mentioned that some policies are outdated and needed to be revised. In mentioning one of the policies, the Quality Assurance Policy was addressed as it was found that during the Gold Cross strike, every agency needed to have a plan. When reviewing the QA Policy participants and agencies were unaware that they needed a plan for each agency. At the Protocol Update Committee meeting the QA policy was re-evaluated, and a template was created for agencies to create their own plan. For the next meeting, Danielle will be taking the lead in scheduling the next QA meeting. Danielle will forward the proposed date to those participating in the Committees.

### **EMS System Design Taskforce**

Robin Hodgkin with ICPHD stated that the strike brought many lessons learned allowing change to occur. During the strike, the EMS Agency presented the incident to the Board of Supervisors and the Board directed Public Health to update EMS System Design and EMS plans. The current EMS System design reflects to be created in 1980s and formalized in 1990s. Robin stated that if the EMS Plan changed, the contract with EMS would be affected and the grandfathering clause would change. The Board of Supervisors would like the EMS System Design Task Force to have a broad representation to include EMS, First Responders, Transport providers, Air providers, Hospitals, and community members.

Cedric Ceseña said that ideas are to look at other models in the state of California and for the Task Force to take and adapt the model locally. He mentioned that the decisions made on the EMS System Plan will be made seeking the best interest of Imperial County. Robin added that it would be good to try potential models, such as the co-location model or the BLS with an ALS transport model before creating the RFP, as the RFP is solely on ideas.

Tony Rouhotas with Imperial County Fire Department agreed that during the strike there were many lessons learned. He mentioned that during the co-habitation, Fire Fighters and First Responders benefited from cross-training. He said that there is a huge benefit in training with partners year after year as it builds a strong bond among parties and improves patient care and communication. He provided the example that during the strike the fire department found that Gold Cross providers did not have hazmat training, and the Fire Department was able to do the training in-house. Since the Fire Department has to do annual trainings, cross-training would assist in building a stronger scope of the EMS process.

### **EMS Manager Position**

Robin Hodgkin with ICPHD stated that currently there is no EMS Manager, and the job opening is posted on the County Website. The position requires a Bachelor's Degree and 5 years of EMS experience. It could range from having a First Responder, a Transport provider or someone with ample experience in larger communities. The EMS Agency is looking for as many applications as possible. The EMS Manager is a key position that brings the EMS community together including Public Health Preparedness, Bioterrorism, and Hospital Preparedness. In the interim of filling the EMS Manager position, ICPHD has reached out to Chief Rouhotas and Danielle Walls in looking at quality control. Daily reports from Gold Cross are being sent to her and Dr. Haynes is reviewing quality and accreditation issues.

## **Member Roundtable Reports**

Rick Goldsberry with Imperial Valley College shared that 42 EMT students just finished classes and are getting ready to take the national registry exam. As for the Paramedic class, it is still in progress until the first week of January 2014. There are 8 students in the field, with 6 paramedics between El Centro and Calexico Fire Department, 1 student in Gold Cross and 1 in San Diego. He took the opportunity to thank PMH, ECRMC, REACH Air, County Fire, El Centro Fire and Brawley Fire for helping out with the students this year. Another update is that by April 2014, IVC is expecting to open a new EMS training facility, which will be available to train Fire and Law Enforcement. The facility will be made up of small classrooms, an EMS skills lab and a training facility.

Chris Herring with PMHD expressed a concern in not receiving Patient Care Record (PCR) reports from providers on a regular basis. The issue is that hospitals are not getting PCR in a timely manner, and most of the time the hospital has to follow up to see if these can be sent. He mentioned that discussions in the past included having a built in fax, a person dropping them off, or developing a better system in getting the PCR. Cedric Ceseña, former EMS Manager, mentioned that there were many barriers with the internet connectivity capability for some agencies. He stated that the issue was that reports were created and remained offline. He mentioned that the Imperial County Policy and Procedures stated that the PCR reports have to be completed and delivered to the hospital within 12 hours. Danielle Walls with ECRMC said that she has had to follow up every day requesting PCRs to be sent. She mentioned that doing this helped with provider compliance.

Sergio Cardenas with REACH Air Ambulance shared that there will be a new operation at Thermal, CA, during the first week of January 2014. He said that they will have a hybrid base with a full time paramedic that will accompany the aircraft as a safety officer and if a nurse is needed, a nurse from REACH 11 or REACH 9 will be able to take the patient. Lastly, he stated that it is not anticipated for the operation to be linked to the EMT/EMS System.

Allen Francis with California Correctional Health Care Services regarded some concerns with identification of Transport providers at his facilities. He requested that anyone visiting the correctional institutions, whether they are flying, coming in an ambulance, or are part of a medical crew, that they present a form of identification with a least a driver's license from the state. Allen mentioned that lately there have been multiple occurrences of providers showing up with no identification. Robin from ICPHD requested for Public Health/EMS to be notified of these incidents as it is necessary that providers have proper identification when practicing.

Cedric Ceseña with El Centro Fire Department shared that El Centro Fire Department promoted personnel to Battalion Chiefs and that El Centro station will have new fire fighters starting this December needing to be accredited as Imperial County paramedics. Also, in January 2014, El Centro Fire Department will be doing CPR training for the City of El Centro employees so that they are able to respond in case of an emergency. There are four instructors in-house who will be doing the courses.

## **Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

Robin Hodgkin mentioned that EMCC will be talking about the EMS System Design, the EMS Manager Position, and the EMCC vacancies. Also, an update from the Protocol Update Committee will be provided and Rick Goldsberry with Imperial Valley College will provide information on the Advanced EMT curriculum IVC has been working on.

## **Adjournment**

Meeting Adjourned at 10:13 a.m.