



## 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, June 13, 2013

Public Health Training Center

935 Broadway, El Centro

09:00 AM

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#### Agenda

- 1) Introduction of Committee Members and Guests
- 2) Review and Approve Minutes of March 13, 2013 Meeting
- 3) Mercy Air Services request for rotational model
- 4) HPP – Transportation Resource Plan - Workgroup
- 5) EMS Agency Report
  - a. EMS Update
    - i. Drug Shortages
    - ii. 2013 Statewide Medical Health Training Exercise
    - iii. 2013 EMS POY
    - iv. Controlled Medication Resupply, Exchange and Storage
    - v. 2013 SideWalk CPR Event
    - vi. EMCC Membership Vacancies
    - vii. EMS Trauma Advisory Committee – 7/08/13
    - viii. EMS Quality Assurance Committee – 7/08/13
    - ix. EMS Protocol Update Committee – 7/15/13
- 6) Member Roundtable Reports
- 7) Adjournment

**The next EMCC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 12, 2013.**

# Imperial County Emergency Medical Care Committee Meeting Minutes June 13, 2013

## Members Present:

Robin Hodgkin, Director  
Cedric Ceseña, EMS Manager  
Brandon Walls  
Gerry Ibarra  
Dannielle Walls  
Silvia Martinez

Imperial County Public Health Department  
Imperial County Public Health Department  
REACH Air Ambulance  
Pioneers Memorial Hospital District  
El Centro Regional Medical Center  
Imperial County Sheriff's Office

## Guests Present:

Don Wharton  
Derek Parker  
George Moreno  
Allen Francis  
Randy Lyman  
Larry Hall  
Melissa Iverson  
Chris Herring

REACH Air Ambulance  
Mercy Air Services  
Imperial County Sheriff's Office  
California Prison Health Care Services  
REACH Air Ambulance  
Mercy Air Services  
Rural Metro Ambulance  
Pioneers Memorial Hospital District

Robin Hodgkin called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Introduction of members and guests took place. Motion was made by Don Wharton and seconded by Cedric Cesena to approve the Minutes of the March 13, 2013 meeting without changes.

## Mercy Air Request for Rotational Model

Larry Hall stated that as of April 15, 2013 Mercy Air is operating in Imperial County. Mr. Hall requests that EMCC take a look at how Mercy can be integrated into the current EMS System and propose a fair rotation model that would work well for the county. He stated that there are several models that could potentially work with two air medical providers and the current rotation is not the most appropriate for Mercy. Potential rotations could be EMSsystem, Odd/Even days, or "tow truck" models that could work in Imperial County. EMSsystems provides the dispatch center a clear view of resources available and their current location.

Cedric Ceseña, explained the current policy allows for a rotational model but there is no definition of what a rotational model would look like.

Robin Hodgkin with ICPHD opened the floor to members of EMCC to provide information regarding the current processes, concerns and questions from individual agencies for the use air medical resources in county. She explained that the decision will be made by the EMS Agency and the County based on EMCC recommendation.

Silvia Martinez with ICSO explained that currently the first call for scene requests is going to Reach Air and any subsequent requests are forwarded to Mercy. ICSO dispatch is currently fielding dispatching duties for several agencies and are willing to try a rotational model that is not complicated due to staffing shortages at the dispatch center.

Gerry Ibarra with PMHD stated that he is concerned with prior services provided in Imperial County by Mercy Air. He stated that if Imperial County lost both providers due to a dilution of call volume patient care and transport would be impacted.

Larry Hall with Mercy Air explained that he is new leadership in the region for Mercy Air and that a commitment has been made by senior leadership to Imperial County.

Dannielle Walls with ECRMC explained that the hospital has an MOU with Reach Air for interfacility transports; she explained that like PMHD she is concerned that there may be a lack of volume to support two aircraft and the county could lose both resources. She stated that EMCC should gather input from first responder agencies like Imperial County and El Centro Fire Departments regarding scene call needs and how this change will affect field operations.

Chief Tony Rouhotas with Imperial County Fire Department explained the long standing history in Imperial County with a variety of air medical providers. He explained that first responders are concerned with the viability of two air medical resources in the county. Chief Rouhotas voiced his concern of the possibility of losing both services and the effect that will have on scene patient care. Chief Rouhotas explained that there have been some issues in the west desert of Ocotillo Wells due to multiple providers present but air to ground communications are not an issue with multiple providers.

Captain Joe Bernal with El Centro Fire Department explained that his personnel's only concern is that when a request is made there will be an air medical resource available in county. Captain Bernal echoed Chief Rouhotas thoughts about air to ground communications with multiple providers.

Melissa Iverson with Rural Metro stated that her agency practices minimal use of air medical resources in Imperial County. She stated that air medical resource use is mainly during desert season and is normally done through ICSO.

Silvia Martinez with ICSO explained that there have been some challenges concerning resource requesting in the Ocotillo Wells area where air medical resources are dispatched without ICSO knowing that air medical resources have been dispatched.

Francis Allen with CDCR Healthcare Prison Systems explained that throughout the state prisons are contracted with both Mercy and Reach and their main concern is availability of a medical resource is present.

Cedric Ceseña with ICEMSA explained that there is not a high number of scene calls that are going unanswered, Cedric explained that there is a decreasing trend in the request of air ambulances in county.

Don Wharton with Reach stated that in the past resources were scarce and not available in county. He stated that in the past several air medical resources have attempted to service the county from outside. He stated that the county must work to preserve the current provider who has serviced the county on a long-term basis.

Derek Parker with Mercy Air stated that he thanks Reach for changing the culture in Imperial County for the use of air medical services in the county. He explained that having another provider in county would offer additional resources to the community; he stated that Air Methods has made a commitment to Imperial County. He explained that since opening their base Mercy Air has received 15 requests for service and turned down a total of nine due to a lack of IFR capability.

Larry Hall explained that the local providers should not be worried about the Mercy Air business model or the solvency of the plan to come into Imperial County. He stated that Mercy does not want to destroy the market in Imperial County. Larry explained that he understands the history and the need for Mercy to prove their commitment in Imperial County.

Robin Hodgkin of ICPHD explained that the EMS Agency will be reviewing HEMS flights closely to monitor overutilization of services by field providers.

Larry Hall requested that a subcommittee workgroup of hospital, law enforcement, fire, EMS and CDCR Prison Systems providers to address the need, the type of rotation to be used, and how the rotation would be rolled out.

Robin Hodgkin requested that members of EMCC participate in the workgroup to include hospitals, first responders, prison systems, EMS ground providers, and EMS Agency personnel. The committee will make a recommendation for rotation at the September 12, 2013 EMCC meeting.

#### **HPP Transportation Resource Plan**

Cedric shared that as part of future funding cycles for the Hospital Preparedness Program the Local EMS Agency will have to develop a transportation resource plan that addresses a variety of alternative means of transportation for patients during a disaster. He explained that members of EMCC will be asked to participate in a workgroup that will help address this requirement.

### **Medication Shortages**

Cedric shared that medication shortages continue across the United States and the local EMS Agency is aware of shortages in Dextrose, Dopamine, Epinephrine 1:10,000, and Zofran. Most medications have been available and some acceptable alternatives have been authorized by Dr. Haynes.

### **Controlled Medication Resupply**

Cedric shared with the group that there have been some recent changes to the methods in which ambulances resupply controlled medications out of PMHD. Changes have been instituted by pharmacy staff to better align internal policies with contemporary DEA regulations. A change to the current policy controlled medication policy for EMS will be instituted in the near future.

### **2013 Statewide Medical Health Training and Exercise**

Cedric shared that this year's training and exercise program will be taking place on November 21, 2013 and will be based on a food borne outbreak. The exercise will focus on Medical Surge, Epidemiological Surveillance and Investigations, Emergency Risk Communications and Information Sharing, Communications, and Emergency Operations Center Management. He explained that as more information becomes available it will be shared with EMS partner agencies.

### **2013 EMS Provider of the Year**

Cedric explained to the group that this year the nominations for EMS provider of the year include FF/Paramedic Joel Rivera for ALS, FF/EMT Jose Valencia for BLS, and Dannielle Walls for RN of Excellence. Cedric asked the group to ratify the nominations as this year's EMS providers, Don Wharton moved to accept the nominees and was seconded by (inaudible) and voted unanimously by the group.

### **2013 SideWalk CPR Event**

Cedric shared that this year Brawley Fire, PMHD, CDCR, NAF El Centro, Holtville Fire and Gold Cross participated in the event. A total of 84 individuals were trained in Brawley, 95 in Holtville and 45 by NAF El Centro. Cedric is looking forward for more participation next year.

### **EMCC Vacancies**

Cedric explained that there are some vacancies in ALS, BLS, First Responder, Consumer Representative, BOS, LE, and 911 Coordinator. Cedric will be looking for interested individuals in filling the spots with volunteers.

### **Roundtable Reports**

Brandon Walls with Reach Air shared that they are in the process of putting together another PHTLS class in Imperial County.