



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROGRAM

County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMISSION

MINUTES

DATE:	June 20, 2022	TIME:	9:00 AM-9:36 AM
PLACE:	HYBRID MEETING: IN-PERSON AND IN ZOOM: Physical location: EMS Office, 1800 Green Hills Rd., Scotts Valley.		

MINUTES

ITEM:

1. Call to Order/Establish Quorum, Review/Correct Agenda, Minutes for May 2022.
 - a. Quorum Met. 8 Commissioners in attendance
 - b. May 16th Minutes will be resent due to Marc Yellin and others not receiving them.
 - c. Minutes were approved by those who received them. Resent minutes will be reviewed, and matters brought up at August meeting if needed.
2. Written Correspondence Listing-
 - a. 1 letter accepting Marc Yellin to his EMCC position.
 - b. Annual Diversion Report
3. Oral Communications-
 - a. Announcements added to agenda.
 - b. AMR has a new Field Supervisor: Chris Garvin.

COVID-19 Update

- a. Dr. Ghilarducci reported that COVID continues to produce a significant number of cases. The traditional way of measuring case counts is becoming less reliable overtime due to at-home testing. Most of testing is happening at schools. Wastewater data is coming in from Watsonville showing moderate levels. Most recent numbers are increasing. Strongly recommends the use of masks in indoor spaces. There are 2 new variants emerging having advantage over BA2: BA4 and 5. They are concerning because they target the respiratory cells more than omicron did. Cases may involve deeper lung infections that could end up in ICU. Characteristics of immunization are showing. Vaccination is protective but less than in the past. Worrisome, but fully expect this to happen. Mutations happen quickly. Paxlovid eligibility is extended to age 50 and above regardless of history, and as low as age 12 for the immunocompromised. There are Test-to-Treat options in Watsonville and

- Santa Cruz where patients can take test and receive medications at the same time. Doctors may also call in Rx to local pharmacies.
- b. Monkeypox: We do have 1 single close contact to a case in Alameda County. County is doing an investigation. PAC group will be updated on PPE requirements which are similar to COVID. County is keeping a close eye on the issue.
 - c. Information link:
<https://www.santacruzhealth.org/HSAHome/HSADivisions/PublicHealth/CommunicableDiseaseControl/CoronavirusHome.aspx>
4. Watsonville Community Hospital
No update provided.
 5. EMS Administrator Report
 - a. Continuing to work on catching up from the impact of COVID over the last 2 years. Monitoring compliance numbers. Big strides in the last 2 weeks and expect to catch up soon. First Watch data was incorrect. It slowed the process down, but now that data is improved, the work will continue.
 - b. Claudia started EMT school on Sunday 6/19/22. She will be available half-time while she is completing the course.
 - c. AMR Contract: AMR contract extension: AMR is working on a report to be submitted to the county.
 6. Prehospital Advisory Committee
 - a. Met in April. Two projects are in progress and will be discussed. Resource Utilization was held with Fire Chiefs where implementation is expected next month. This includes a plan to reduce the amount of resources sent to every call and the use of Red Lights and Sirens. Close monitoring is expected. Group is talking about turning off the Code 2 pend process, halting the delaying of ambulances being sent to lower acuity calls. Instead, ambulances will be sent as needed. Severe cases may need to wait long, but hoping to reduce overall ambulance responses and save those for calls that require ambulances.
 - b. I-Gel Airway is being considered. Should make little difference in how patients are presented to ED.
 - c. Epinephrine is low. No other good substitutes. Units are directed to use expired medications for the next 6 months until shortages are done.
 - d. Albuterol is also in shortage, and a substitute is being used. Dosing changes will be needed.
 - e. State level changes with overdose deaths: Fentanyl is making its way into all drugs on the street. More OD's are being seen in County. Narcan is being used for those at risk. Discussion with Clinicians are occurring. Patients often refuse treatment by EMS crews after receiving Narcan. Medication assisted therapy is being proposed for use in the field with the end goal of recruitment into a treatment program for the patient. If State allows this as a local practice, it will be used in the tri-county area. This will require approval from the EMS Authority, and is an innovative way to manage the issue. It will take a multidisciplinary approach to get people away from dependence.
 - f. Changes and updates to trauma criteria are being explored.
 7. ET3
 - a. Alex Asti: The ET3 program has expanded to patients from Central California Alliance starting on June 24, and it will become open to all patients starting next week. They are receiving great feedback from the field overall about the program.
 8. Innovator report
 - a. Alex Asti: OD Map is fully updated. It is updated daily within the hour as much as possible.

- b. Ghilarducci: An interface between OD Maps and First Watch needs to be purchased for real-time data entry. There is an effort at the State level to have a Statewide OD maps (bio special), and a chance that we may not need to buy a subscription from First Watch for the future, but no final decision from State on implementation has been provided. The public portal in OD Maps allows for people to see where OD's are happening. There are issues with privacy as the report can show up to address level. Asti reports that he enters general location to block specific location for privacy matters. Most cases are being seen in the downtown area of Santa Cruz.
 - c. *Funding to connect OD Maps and First Watch will need to be identified to cover approximately \$8,000 to connect and require \$2500/yr.*
9. Radio system infrastructure report
 - a. Latest update from Brenda is that consultant report is in.
 - b. Greg reports that the last update was about a month ago. They will need to go to a P25 capability. Cost to update the radio system is "tens to 20" millions of dollars. Advantage of trunked system is more channel capability. Preliminary panel recommendation is being prepared.
10. Air Ambulance closest unit response and staffing/Watsonville Base:
 - a. *This agenda item was held over until the August EMCC meeting.*
11. Announcements:
 - a. Introduction made by Dan Quinto of a new supervisor for AMR: Paramedic since 2007 previously working in Santa Clara County: Supervisor Chris Garvin.
 - b. Celia Barry: Today is Brenda's last EMCC meeting. EMS Proclamation read. Congrats to BRENDA!
12. Items for August Agenda.
 - a. *Items for August Agenda:*
 - i. *Update about recruitment of new EMS Director*
 - ii. *Update about the sale of Watsonville Hospital*
 - iii. *Kaiser update requested*
 - iv. *Dominican remodeling plans requested*
13. Adjournment: motion made to adjourn at 09:36 AM.

Commissioners in attendance:

Dan Quinto, AMR	Kent Benedict, MD	Amy Grooters, RN
Marcus Kwan, MD	Eric Conrad, RN	Marc Yellin, MD
Jason Nee, EMSIA	Celia Barry	Arnold Leff, MD
Greg Benson, AMR	Michael McGannon, MD	Rich Rubin
Chris Clark, S.O.		

Commissioners Excused:

Jason Nee	Amy Grooters, RN
Chris Clark	
Eric Conrad, RN	

Guests:

Dr. Gail Newel, MD	Kent Cramer	Michael Esslinger
Alex Aste	Chris Stubendorff	Jerry Souza, RN
Brad Cramer	Michael Baulch, RN, JD	Mayra Reyes
Paul Angelo, RN	Becky Shoemaker	Dan Chavez

County Staff:

Dr. David Ghilarducci, MD

Brenda Brenner
Claudia Garza
Emily Chung
Dr. Gail Newel, Health Officer