



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES PROGRAM

MINUTES EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMISSION

DATE:	January 25, 2021	TIME:	8:30 AM
PLACE:	Virtual Meeting Used for Social Distancing		

ITEM:

1. Call to Order/Establish Quorum, Review/Correct Agenda, Minutes– [8:30 am] – December minutes approved.
2. Written Correspondence Report – None
3. Oral Communications – None
4. COVID-19 Update –
 - a. Update – Dave G – believe that the numbers on the website are lower by a factor of at least 4. Entire state will soon go off the Regional Stay at Home order. Santa Cruz will now go to “purple tier” of restrictions. There is a new variant that may be more transmissible and may cause more severe disease. Modeling shows that hospitalizations and ICU capacity should improve in Santa Cruz. Statewide the “r” continues to go under 1. Vaccines have been challenging rollout due to supply. Santa Cruz will start Phase 1b soon (those 65 and older). Still have the occupation-based tier system that includes emergency services, teachers, agricultural workers, law and other essential workers. This tier may change to age. There is a pilot vaccine clinic this week in Watsonville where have experienced the community has disproportionately suffered from COVID. Question about “double-masking” – is probably from concern of the new variant that could be 30 – 50% more transmissible. Double masking won’t hurt but hard to know if will be successful.
 - b. <https://www.santacruzhealth.org/HSAHome/HSADivisions/PublicHealth/CommunityDiseaseControl/CoronavirusHome.aspx>
5. Debris Flow Update – Brenda – Weather report is for flash flood watch for San Lorenzo Valley and the CZU fire areas Tuesday through Thursday and will likely go to flash flood warning. Heavy rain likely to occur Tuesday night into the early hours of Thursday. There will be a lull in the weather and then heavy rain may hit again on Thursday night. Rain is predicted to start Tuesday with 15 – 30 mph winds at the lower elevations, and 50 – 70 mph winds across mountains. San Lorenzo Valley and the CZU burn scar area could see 8-12 inches of rain. Projections are that the threshold for debris flow has been met or exceeded. There is a high likelihood of ash and debris flow. The EOC is open this morning. Evacuation warnings were sent yesterday and evacuation orders are being sent out this morning at 8am. Three temporary evacuation sites are opening this morning. They will have medical and typical shelter resources except no overnight indoors.

Evacuees can use the sites for gathering information and working with Red Cross for additional needs.

6. EMS Administrator Report – Brenda – Very busy with COVID and debris flow issues. Ambulance response compliance is good.
7. Prehospital Advisory Committee – Met in early December. There are some interesting initiatives starting. AMR has been doing great job with compliance with stroke and EKG cases. Medics are documenting improvement in all areas. There is a lot of pressure on EMS recently due to call volume with some wait times creeping up but overall the system is doing a great job keeping rigs on the road.
8. ET3 – Mike Esslinger - AMR is looking to identify more partners. AMR will soon approach the EMS agency regarding changes in policies, etc. Chris Jones reported that she attended a webinar about ET3. The HIE project will be invaluable to access evaluation of insurance on scene and will help ET3 decide destination for patients involved in project.
9. Innovator Report – Kay – was at the Sutter vaccination site and reported that very few patients had reactions (6 out of 1,000). Kay became more familiar with documenting in Image Trend as part of his time at the vaccination site. He is continuing to investigate using an alternative mental health model for Santa Cruz County and thanked Corey Schaefer of WTS Fire for helping out with the project. The Volunteer Center is printing the falls prevention project information for the “pick up and put back” EMS calls. For eTOC project – Celia’s update. Kay has an intern from Scott Vahradian’s UCSC seminar who works as an EMT in county.
10. HIE Grant – Celia – The project has successfully connected EMS medics in the field to the Santa Cruz Health Information Exchange in real time. Medics are using the system to match patients and download patient information such as allergies, medical history, medications, etc. The project has also successfully taken completed EMS patient care records and filed them into the Health Information Exchange. Next steps will include obtaining hospital discharge information for the EMS patients in the system and giving feedback to the medics. The system will also test the ability of emergency department staff to obtain brief patient information prior to delivery of the patient to the ER. Dan reported that the project has been cutting down medics’ time on task with information downloaded. Dave G shows that roughly 50% of time the eTOC is sent in prior to leaving scene. Mark Yellin requests ability for eTOC to automatically print out prior to arrival of EMS.
11. Radio System Infrastructure Report – No update.
12. Items for February 22nd zoom meeting
 - a. Debris Flow, Innovator, regular reports, COVID – Scott Vahradian retiring
13. Adjournment –

Commissioners in attendance:

Marcus Kwan, MD
Eric Conrad, RN
Arnold Leff, MD
Chris Jones

Kent Benedict, MD
Michael McGannon, MD
Dan Quinto

Celia Barry
Jason Hajduk
Marc Yellin

Commissioners excused:

Dan Brothman

County Staff:

Brenda Brenner

Dave Ghilarducci, MD

Guests:

Paul Angelo, Dominican

Mike Esslinger, AMR

Michael Baulch, LifeFlight

Kay Blackwolfe, AMR

Mark Bingham, Boulder Creek Fire

Hilda Chelstowski, Central Coast Ambulance

Kent Cramer, LifeFlight

Jeff Horner, Calstar

Amy Grooters, Watsonville Community Hospital, Nurse Manager

Becky Shoemaker