

Contra Costa County
EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE

Annual Report for 2023

Advisory Body Name: Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC)

Advisory Body Meeting Time/Location: 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of March, June, September, and December, unless otherwise noted. The public may attend in person or remotely via Zoom or call-in.

Chair: James Lambert (December 2021 – Present)

Staff Person: Rachel Morris (January 2017 – Present), Health Services, Emergency Medical Services

Reporting Period: January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

I. Activities:

The EMCC, over four (4) regular meetings in the past year, was involved in or kept its membership informed about the following:

- Continued discussion on the update to the county ambulance ordinance. The new ambulance ordinance was adopted by the Board of Supervisors; the Contra Costa County EMS Agency (CCCEMSA) continues to create internal systems to support the new ordinance deliverables (i.e., fee schedules, special event standby, DOJ background access).
- The Board of Supervisors recognized May 21-27th as National EMS Week, and May 24th as EMS for Children Day.
- Treatment guidelines and policies updated for 2024 are finalized. Implementation is January 1st, 2024.
- Continued discussion on adverse impacts on 9-1-1 ambulance providers and patient care associated with prolonged ambulance patient offload delays (APOT).
- CCCEMSA continues the III phase process via consultant (FITCH) to perform an EMS System evaluation that will inform the next RFP for emergency ambulance services in ERAs I, II, and V.
- CCCEMSA is endeavoring to expand the Buprenorphine LOSOP. Parts of the County are not currently participating, so for equity of the System, the goal is to expand to all transporting providers. Conversations are ongoing with San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, and Moraga-Orinda Fire District to bring the LOSOP to their districts.

II. Accomplishments

- Approval of EMCC 2022 Annual Report.
- Successful nominations and establishing a new EMCC Executive Committee for the 2023-2025 term.
- Based on a 6-year CCCEMSA study of 911 ambulance transports and critical ALS interventions administered for each MPDS sub-determinant, BLS Tiered response was launched in East and Central County September 19th, 2023.
 - Provider has reported better than expected system impact and no sentinel events have occurred.
- Published updated Public Safety First Aid policy to support Law Enforcement AED and Narcan programs and to support volunteer agency personnel who are integrated into EMS system.
- Creation and implementation of contract position “EMS Specialist”. The position is focused on performing ambulance inspections and supporting CCCEMSA internal Ambulance Ordinance processes and compliance.
- Received the American Heart Association’s Mission: Lifeline® regional STEMI achievement award for its commitment to rapid, research-based care to people across the region experiencing the most severe form of heart attack.

III. Attendance/Representation

The EMCC is a multidisciplinary committee with membership consisting of representation of specific EMS stakeholder groups and organizations plus one (1) consumer member nominated by each Board of Supervisor member. There are twenty-four (24) authorized, voting seats, and two (2) non-voting, ex-officio seats on the advisory body. In 2023, twenty (20) voting member seats and two (2) ex-officio seats were filled; four (4) seats were unfilled. A quorum was achieved at four (4) of the four (4) regular EMCC meetings in 2023.

IV. Training/Certification

Each new EMCC representative was given a copy of the Advisory Body Handbook and copies of the “The Brown Act and Better Government Ordinance Training Video” and “Ethics for Local Government Officials” video offered by the Fair Political Practices Commission during their two (2) year term. Beginning July 14, 2023, Implicit Bias training was added to the required training for EMCC members. New members are given three (3) months from appointment to complete the Implicit Bias training, and current members were given three (3) months from the July 14 adoption of the new training requirement. Responsibilities of County Boards were discussed including the responsibility to view the videos and submit

signed certifications. In 2023, completed certification forms have been received from fifteen(15) of twenty-two (22) representatives so far. The fifteen (15) certificates received this year are attached to this report.

V. Focused Objectives for Next Year

- Continue to refine EMS Emergency Quality Improvement Plan (EQIP) and support stakeholder processes related to Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement:
 - Stakeholder Education
 - Stakeholder support in building relevant, achievable, and sustainable Quality Improvement Plans that align with the CCEMSA EQIP, CA Regulation and State 'core measure' deliverables.
- Support opportunities for more efficient response and transport model to include:
 - Tiered response monitoring and refinement
 - Supporting behavioral health models that shunt non-medical calls away from EMS system or lessen the current burden on the EMS system.
 - Improve triage of EMS calls for service generated by law enforcement.
 - Shunting non-emergent 911 calls to RN advice line.
- Support emergency ambulance provider and community hospitals efforts to reduce patient transfer of care extended delays that impact the availability of ambulances for the next 9-1-1 call.
- Resolve outstanding 2017/2018 EMS Plan appeal with EMSA; submit subsequent EMS Plans to bring Contra Costa current.

VI. Expected 2024 Reports, Updates, and Continued Support Items

- Continue to support stakeholder opportunities and efforts to procure sustainable funding for EMS System emergency communications, dispatch, and data infrastructure enhancements to optimize patient care in day-to-day and disaster conditions.
- Support Public Health Medical Health Disaster Coalition preparedness and engagement as it pertains to the EMS System. Continue to monitor and report on EMS System impacts due to changing economics and health care reform.
- Support EMS System program (STEMI, Stroke, Cardiac Arrest, EMSC, Quality/Patient Safety and Trauma) initiatives.
- Support and sustain community education and outreach.
- Support appropriate use of 9-1-1, CPR Anytime, and Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) programs through partnerships with Law Enforcement, CERT, fire first responders, and community coalitions.
- Receive updates on treatment guidelines and policies for 2024.