



# County of Santa Cruz

## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

POST OFFICE BOX 962, 1080 EMELINE AVE., SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-0962

TELEPHONE: (831) 454-4120 FAX: (831) 454-4488 TDD/TTY: Call 711

EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
SERVICES PROGRAM

## MINUTES EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMISSION

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>September 21, 2020</b>	<b>TIME:</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>
<b>PLACE:</b>	Teleconference Used for Social Distancing		

### ITEM:

1. Call to Order/Establish Quorum, Review/Correct Agenda, Minutes– [8:30 am] – Quorum established. August minutes say “approved September’s minutes” – should be “June’s minutes”. No actions to be taken for meeting due to meeting notification and links.
2. Written Correspondence Report – None
3. Oral Communications – None
4. COVID-19 Update –
  - a. Update – Dr. Newel – cautious about being able to sustain the current effort for the next year. So far, approximately 2300 cases with 8 deaths. Expected to see significant increase after fires due to community mixing but are averaging fewer than 19 cases per day. Under the Governor’s new tiered system, Santa Cruz is “red” which allows many sectors to reopen with modifications. Schools can have in-person instruction. Fourteen private schools will open for classroom education this week. Public schools will do distance learning only for at least the coming weeks. Stanford will do testing and surveillance for adults on campuses for the private schools in October. The experience with private schools will help the county learn more about the impact of opening schools for classroom instruction. Positive cases in Santa Cruz County continue to be due to person-to-person contact – almost always household member or close contact. Still seeing most cases in Watsonville and among the Latinx population. Flu season is nearing and it is possible to be ill with flu and COVID at the same time. People ill with flu are more susceptible to get COVID. It is very important for people to get the flu vaccine. Continued fires, potential for public safety power shutoffs (PSPS) and the holiday season all present more opportunities for COVID spread. Dr. Newel thanked everyone for their critical support of this effort.
  - b. <https://www.santacruzhealth.org/HSAHome/HSADivisions/PublicHealth/CommunityDiseaseControl/CoronavirusHome.aspx>
5. EMS Administrator Report
6. EMS for last month has mostly worked on the fire response. Dave Ghilarducci has been deployed on a FEMA assignment this morning for 10 days but believes he’ll be reachable. Current statistics about the CZU Fire – over 86,000 acres burned, now 99% containment. 1490 structures destroyed, close to 900 were homes. Still have two shelters open – Asilomar (90 people) and the Fairgrounds (68 people). Approximately 1,400 to 1,500

residents are living in hotels. Power is still out for 371 PG&E customers in SLV. PG&E is replacing with their destroyed equipment with a better infrastructure that will hopefully limit future PSPS. There are still have 325 households with do not drink, do not boil water (due to melted pipes). Still handing out water in Boulder Creek. The response is now moving towards “recovery”. There is concern about the potential for mudslides this winter so work is being done to winterize burn areas. Are predicting weak to moderate La Nina – might be slightly dryer. Could still have 2 – 3 large storms. Concerned about mud slides and need to shelter people in winter. No longer providing medical staff at shelters except for Asilomar. Please send after action items to Rosemary Anderson about what went well and what didn’t. PSPS are coming. They normally occur in October. There could be red flag warnings this weekend and resulting PSPS. Fire response: The State pushed resources into county rather than waiting for requests. EMS requested an ambulance strike team on Day 2 and EMSA decided on Day 3 to bring in 3 additional ambulance strike teams. The State also sent the National Guard for testing and a CAL-MAT (California Medical Assistance Team) which was placed at the Fairgrounds. The CAL-MAT and National Guard have since left the county. AMR also had to evacuate its headquarters in Scotts Valley and moved to Cabrillo College. AMR had some staff that were evacuated and as a result brought in other AMR crews to work in Santa Cruz. AMR is now back in Scotts Valley. EMS volume continues to be down, likely due to lack of tourists.

7. Prehospital Advisory Committee
  - a. Nothing to report
8. ET3
  - a. Nothing to report
9. Innovator Report
10. Dan Quinto – AMR staff is very pleased with this program. Dan Brothman and Paul Angelo both commented about being the program’s usefulness
11. HIE Grant
  - a. Won’t pursue grant funds for POLST project due to POLST registry requiring ongoing fees for access to registry.
12. Radio System Infrastructure Discussion
  - a. Jason said last month was a complicated and expensive problem to fix. Jason will send a letter to EMCC.
13. Behavioral Health
  - a. Postponed until January meeting – good to have MERT in the Dominican Hospital Emergency Department. There have been cases that didn’t need to go to CSP, due to the County’s MERT program.
14. EMCC Meeting day of week
  - a. Zoom/Team meetings make it easier to do Mondays. Decided not to change for now.
15. Items for October Agenda
  - a. COVID updates, Innovator, HIE, Radio infrastructure, hold off on BH until next year.
16. Adjournment –

Commissioners in attendance – note there were issues with the meeting link:

Marcus Kwan, MD	Kent Benedict, MD	Celia Barry
Chris Jones	Dan Quinto	Eric Conrad, RN
Arnold Leff, MD	Dan Brothman	Jason Hajduk

Commissioners excused:

Michael McGannon, MD  
Craig Kunzler

County Staff:

Brenda Brenner  
Gail Newel, MD  
Marcus Pimentel

Guests:

Paul Angelo, Dominican  
Michael Baulch  
Jeff Horner  
Patrick Winters  
Becky Shoemaker  
Brad Cramer  
Mark Bingham