



EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES PROGRAM

County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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MINUTES EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMISSION

<u>DATE:</u>	October 19, 2020	<u>TIME:</u>	8:30 AM
<u>PLACE:</u>	Conference Call Used for Social Distancing		

ITEM:

1. Call to Order/Establish Quorum, Review/Correct Agenda, Minutes– [8:30 am] –August and September minutes approved.
2. Written Correspondence Report – None
3. Oral Communications – None
4. COVID-19 Update –
 - a. Update – Dr. Ghilarducci –relatively quiet phase right now, steady growth but has slowed down. The one exception is a recent outbreak at Watsonville Post Acute Nursing Home. The SNFs have been doing really well and are relying on surveillance testing of staff. A patient was sent to the hospital for unrelated complaints and tested positive. All residents at the facility were then tested and multiple positives were identified. It is now apparent that the medical care system is vulnerable to a single facility having an outbreak. Both hospitals were both relatively busy extra capacity was limited. Given that the flu season is about to occur, the timeline for an ACS (alternate care site) was moved up. These surges will probably continue with another peak of COVID likely. Seems that intimate contacts are spreading virus – some transmission within nursing home, mostly in homes have transmission. Also seeing it in workplace settings where employees share breakroom. Mostly not spread among healthcare providers, including EMS providers. There currently is no surveillance testing program for first responders but rapid testing is available. The program for paramedics to administer vaccines will be implemented for COVID. Kay is giving flu vaccines to AMR medics.
 - b. <https://www.santacruzhealth.org/HSAHome/HSADivisions/PublicHealth/CommunityDiseaseControl/CoronavirusHome.aspx>
5. PSPS Update – Brenda – There was one last week and there is a potential for additional shutoffs this week. PG&E has a facility to accommodate people who require power for survival.
6. Debris Flow Update – Brenda – State Geologists have said that our area is particularly high risk for debris flow. We will have to do evacuations when we anticipate weather to be particularly rainy. AMR has worked with Fire and Law to look at the map of anticipated debris flows and is making plans for managing the situation. Weather outlook at this time looks like some bigger storms but not day after day of rain. A big concern is that people

may not evacuate in time if the first orders to evacuate don't result in debris flows. Maps showing areas at risk for debris flows will be made public this week.

7. EMS Administrator Report – A recruitment for a new staffperson for the EMS office is anticipated in the next week or two. The EMS Coordinator position will be a Department Administrative Analyst level position. It will probably be sometime in January before the person is hired. The EMS Plan has been sent to the State and is mostly approved.
8. Prehospital Advisory Committee – The Committee last met in August and discussed regular items. The Committee will hear a report by Kay Blackwolfe, as the “Innovator” for EMS. Dr. Ghilarducci commended Kay for his work in assisting vulnerable individuals. Fire has challenges with connectivity in the field which limits the ability of the fire service to fully participate in the capabilities of the patient care record system and the health information exchange project. AMR uses iPads and doesn't have this issue.
9. ET3 – Mike Esslinger– Santa Cruz was not selected for the first phase of the rollout. Monterey county also applied and wasn't selected on participant list. Santa Cruz is still on the list.
10. Innovator Report – Kay –The Innovator's focus is the 911 system's high utilizers. So far his work with other agencies has resulted in several placements in skilled nursing facilities, the provision of visiting nurse services, and referral of others to County Mental Health for care. All of these referrals have resulted in improved health of the patients, and a reduction in calls to 911. He accesses the Santa Cruz County Health Information Exchange to provide outcome information to AMR and Fire medics. This helps improve the clinical care provided by EMS. AMR also started a “leave behind Narcan” project for individuals that AMR crews identify as being at risk for overdosing. Kay is also participating in a number of meetings with other healthcare organizations to connect high users to better resources to manage medical issues. Kay is also working with the EMSIA on a falls prevention project.
11. HIE Grant – Celia – the project to connect EMS patient care records (and medics) to the Santa Cruz Health Information Exchange is going well. The grant for this project ends 9/30/21 and it is anticipated that the project will have met its goals. Kay will be helping Celia on the project.
12. Radio System Infrastructure Report – Jason– Jason wasn't able to attend the EMCC meeting to give an update.
13. Items for December 7th Agenda – [Dr. Newel gave an update regarding the EMCC's ability to meet in person. Gatherings are currently not allowed. Meeting virtually will continue for the time being.]
 - a. Debris Flow, Innovator, regular reports
14. Adjournment – (December 7)

Commissioners in attendance:

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

Kent Benedict, MD
Michael McGannon, MD

Celia Barry
Marc Yellin, MD

Commissioners excused:

Dan Brothman
Chris Jones
Dan Quinto
Jason Hajduk

Craig Kunzler (leaving Santa Cruz CHP)

County Staff:

Brenda Brenner
Gail Newel, MD
Dave Ghilarducci, MD

Guests:

Paul Angelo, Dominican
Mike Esslinger
Michael Baulch
Kay Blackwolfe