



EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
SERVICES PROGRAM

# County of Santa Cruz

## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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## MINUTES EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMISSION

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>February 22, 2021</b>	<b>TIME:</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>
<b>PLACE:</b>	Virtual Meeting Used for Social Distancing		

### ITEM:

1. Call to Order/Establish Quorum, Review/Correct Agenda, Minutes– [8:30 am] – January minutes approved.
2. Written Correspondence Report – Watsonville Hospital requesting Kevin Spiegel, the new CEO to be the Watsonville Hospital representative to the EMCC.
3. Oral Communications – Marc Yellin – question about the status Watsonville Hospital – add to agenda for March.
4. COVID-19 Update –
  - a. Update – Dr. Ghilarducci – COVID numbers are coming down. Worried about variants. Genome sequencing is occurring in the county but no results yet. The UK variant is expected to be widespread by March or so. Overall the county is making progress on vaccinating people likely to end up hospitalized or dead. Over 70% of residents 75 and older have had one shot. 65 and older also high level of first vaccine. The vaccination effort is shifting to occupational groups this week. There is also some wastewater surveillance for COVID. Data from California vaccination registry doesn't break down people receiving vaccine by occupation. Dignity and Sutter have been giving vaccines to teachers.
  - b. <https://www.santacruzhealth.org/HSAHome/HSADivisions/PublicHealth/CommunityDiseaseControl/CoronavirusHome.aspx>
5. Vaccination Clinics – Dignity and Sutter/PAMF have been holding vaccination clinics. County has also been running vaccination clinics. Both Fire and AMR have been supporting outdoor drive through clinics to provide care for any vaccine complications. County has also been running a vaccine strike team to go to homes to support people unable to go to a vaccination clinic.
6. Debris Flow Update – There was one event due to the heavy rainfall last month. There were some washouts and slides as a result. Evacuation thresholds remain the same as before.
7. EMS Administrator Report – Compliance is good. County is monitoring the impact of COVID on the community. The "Skyline Remote Zone" is an area of Santa Cruz County that is usually covered by the closer EMS responders from Santa Clara County rather than from the EMS rig stationed in Boulder Creek. The area is on Skyline between Highways 17 and 9. Santa Clara no longer posts a rig in Saratoga which could have an impact on

response times to the remote zone. The Consumer Representative for EMCC has now been vacant for quite some time. Please let people know of the vacancy. Commissioners representing board members can inform them of the vacancy to see if there are interested constituents. It was suggested that recruiting a representative from the South County area would help balance representation on the EMCC.

8. Prehospital Advisory Committee – Last met in December.
9. ET3 – Chris Jones – AMR and Dignity have entered into agreement at a high level. Dignity's urgent care on 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue is being considered for the project. There will be three Medical Directors involved in developing/approving the protocols for the project: County EMS Medical Director, Dignity's Medical Director and AMR's Medical Director.
10. Innovator Report – N/A
11. HIE Grant – Celia – Federal dollars being used for the project and requests for extensions due to COVID have been turned down. The infrastructure for the project is almost complete. The work now falls on the medics in the field to write PCRs, post from the field, enter data into new fields, etc. Medics doing a great job of searching through the health information exchange for patient history. There is a potential for acquiring accurate information about patient insurance. Hope to find out more about this.
12. Radio System Infrastructure Report – Jason – no update yet. Update from Fire - County and all law and fire jurisdictions signed off on a platform for disaster response. This is a significant upgrade to the zone response/information infrastructure. Netcom is moving the reverse 9-1-1 alerting system from Code Red to Everbridge. This improvement will make it possible for reverse 9-1-1 alerts to go out even if our dispatch center is not functional. .
13. Scott Vahradian Retirement – EMSIA met and revised job description. Changed requirement to paramedic for QA and training. Position will live with Central Fire. Will do recruitment in next week or two.
14. Items for March 15th zoom meeting
  - a. Debris Flow, Innovator, regular reports, COVID, Watsonville Hospital
15. Adjournment –

Commissioners in attendance:

Marcus Kwan, MD  
Eric Conrad, RN  
Dan Quinto

Kent Benedict, MD  
Michael McGannon, MD  
Marc Yellin

Celia Barry  
Jason Hajduk  
Chris Jones

Commissioners excused:

Arnold Leff, MD

County Staff:

Brenda Brenner  
Dave Ghilarducci, MD

Guests:

Michael Baulch, LifeFlight  
Kent Cramer, LifeFlight  
Jeff Horner, Calstar  
Amy Grooters, Watsonville Community Hospital, Nurse Manager