



EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES PROGRAM

County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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MINUTES EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMISSION

DATE:	April 18, 2022	TIME:	9:00 AM
PLACE:	Hybrid Meeting Virtual and In-Person		

ITEM:

1. Call to Order/Establish Quorum, Review/Correct Agenda, Minutes– [9:00 am] –Approved March minutes.
2. Written Correspondence Report –
 - a. Written Correspondence
 - b. Annual Diversion Report – June agenda
3. Oral Communications – None
4. COVID-19 Update – Dr. Ghilarducci
 - a. Update – Some hints of a rise of COVID – wastewater data from Santa Clara County and the data from Santa Cruz County appears to show that COVID is relatively stable. Slight uptick as people return from spring break. COVID variants are becoming more transmissible with each variant. Case counts still low but need to be careful of people in residential facilities. In Santa Cruz County – wastewater in Santa Cruz is monitored by a group funded by Google. Watsonville is tied in with CDC grant to do wastewater monitoring. Emeline lab can do wastewater samples and the capacity to monitor for COVID is being built at that location. Public Health may do more surveillance in congregate living settings such as the jail, SNFs and UCSC to look for clusters to do testing and support to stamp out “spot fires”. Most of current testing is in schools and it’s also clusters are being detected. The primary concern is to preserve hospital capacity.
 - b. <https://www.santacruzhealth.org/HSAHome/HSADivisions/PublicHealth/CommunicableDiseaseControl/CoronavirusHome.aspx>
5. Watsonville Community Hospital – Amy Grooters –Still moving forward. Sale of hospital still on track for August. At WCH – haven’t had single COVID patient admitted in weeks. Some staffing challenges with nursing but that’s due to a nationwide shortage. Hard to know if the sale is impacting that shortage. Staff seem hopeful.
6. EMS Administrator Report – Brenda – Response compliance looks good. Brenda has an extra-help staff person, Virginia, to assist with the following projects: mobile field hospital set up, and infection control project for when field staff is exposed. Virginia is also working on a communication plan and will work on some pediatric projects. Brenda has tendered retirement date – September 2nd is her last day. Her last EMCC meeting will be in June.

7. EMCC Commissioner Openings – All filled. Dr. Yellin needs to be reappointed and is working on that.
8. Prehospital Advisory Committee – Dr. Ghilarducci –The PAC's current projects are: updating quarterly report cards, adding hypoglycemia, etc. Data flow – making sure that data that prehospital collects is transmitted to hospital.
9. Behavioral Health Update and Impact on EDs – Dr. Yellin – When the crisis stabilization facility has capacity issues patients are being taken to the ED, even if the patient has no need for medical treatment. Kwan asking for numbers on hours of CSP diversion. Mónica will meet with Dominican Hospital to discuss with leadership. EMCC needs data on impact to EDs. Chris noted that Zach Friend is very interested in this issue and is studying it. As Friend's appointee, Celia will contact his office on this issue. The Commission decided to hold a focused meeting on mental health and the impact on EMS. The Commission discussed inviting leadership from both hospitals as well as other key individuals.
10. ET3 – Alex – Telehealth going well and there have been three patients managed through ET3 since its inauguration. The Sentinel reported on the project. Alex is working with a group to propose expanding the project to Medicaid recipients.
11. Innovator – Brad – Red Light and Sirens (RLS) - Brad is part of a group working with NHTSA and 49 other EMS organizations across country looking at the issue from a resource utilization perspective. There is data showing that sending all resources and red lights and sirens increases risk, and drains staff, with little value for the response. The group is using the Institute for Healthcare Improvement model. The model could be applied to mental health issues. Hopefully more information will be available by May.
12. Radio System Infrastructure –Greg – The radio consultant is looking at two different systems that would provide better coverage. Hope to have these options out for review at end of next month.
13. Air Ambulance Status Closest Unit Response and staffing/Watsonville Base – Jeff Horner – CALSTAR – progressing with permitting with new base at Watsonville airport. Staffing – continue to experience challenges with nursing. Have 20 qualified paramedic applicants for each qualified nurse. Michael - Stanford received nurse strike notice tentatively effective on April 25th. Anticipate that there will be service interruptions if strike occurs.
14. Kaiser Update– No one available.
15. Items for May Agenda – mental health meeting, annual diversion letter, standing items
16. Adjournment

Commissioners in attendance:

Kent Benedict, MD	Celia Barry
Jason Nee	Marcus Kwan, MD
Arnold Leff, MD	Rich Rubin
Marc Yellin, MD	Chief Deputy Chris Clark
Greg Benson	Dan Quinto
Amy Grooters, RN	

Commissioners excused:

Eric Conrad, RN	Michael McGannon, MD
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County Staff:

Brenda Brenner	Claudia Garza
Shelley Huxtable	David Ghilarducci, MD
Mónica Morales – new HSA Director	

Guests:

Brad Cramer-AMR
Michael Baulch-Life Flight
Paul Angelo-Dominican Hospital
Dan Chavez – Santa Cruz HIO
Mike Esslinger-AMR
Becky Shoemaker-SCHIO
Chris Stubendorff – Scotts Valley Fire
Kent Cramer – Life Flight
Dan Chavez - SCHIO
Scott Vahradian - EMSIA
Alex Aste – AMR, Innovator
Jeff Horner - CALSTAR
Jennifer Maguire – Dominican Hospital
Rob Oatey – Santa Cruz Fire