

Contra Costa County
EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY



Chair

Ellen Leng, MD
Emergency Dept Physicians

1st Vice Chair

Allan Tobias, MD, JD
District II

2nd Vice Chair

Kacey Hansen
Trauma Center

Executive Committee

Paul Freitas
*Alameda-Contra Costa
Medical Association*

Leslie Mueller
*Ambulance Providers
Public Provider Field Paramedic*

December 11, 2008

Clerk of the Board
Contra Costa County
651 Pine Street, 1st Floor
Martinez, CA 94553

To Whom It May Concern:

The Contra Costa County Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC) Annual Report for 2007 is being submitted to the Board of Supervisors as required by Contra Costa Board of Supervisors Resolution no. 2002/377. The Emergency Medical Care Committee approved this report at its December 10, 2008 meeting.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please call me at (925) 313-9550.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Juleine Latteri", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Juleine Latteri
EMS Secretary
Staff to EMCC

Enc.

Contra Costa County
EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE

Annual Report for 2008

Advisory Body Name: Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC)

Advisory Body Meeting Time/Location: 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of March, June, September, and December. Meetings are held at the Contra Costa County Schools Insurance Group Conference Room in Pleasant Hill.

Chair: Ellen Leng, MD

Staff person: Juleine Latteri, Health Services EMS

Reporting Period: December 1, 2007 - November 30, 2008

I. Activities:

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

- September 8th implementation of County's STEMI system, allowing paramedics to rapidly identify and transport high-risk heart attack victims to specially equipped hospitals.
- Economic recovery/stabilization of Doctors San Pablo, and progress on establishing a permanent leadership team.
- American Heart Association's development of Heart Safe Cities program designed to improve out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrest survival, and Contra Costa EMS' plans to implement the program on a local level.
- October 31st release of an unidentified substance at Antioch High School. This was the first significant event since the Multi-Casualty Incident (MCI) plan was implemented on July 1, 2007.
- Communications upgrades and system enhancements funded by Measure H.
- Possible establishment of a voluntary medical reserve corps for Contra Costa County.
- Implementation of the County's EMS event reporting program *Patient Safety First*, focusing on patient/provider safety, recognition of exemplary care in the field and an early notification system.
- County's three Homeland Security Grant field multi-casualty exercises held throughout the year.
- EMS trauma data which indicates a steady increase of patients – up approximately 30% over the last decade - due to a rise in firearm assaults and violence.
- Opening of the Kaiser Antioch facility in November 2007, bringing the number of hospitals in Contra Costa County to nine, and positively impacting transport times in East County.
- EMS committee activities including the Facilities and Critical Care Committee, the EMS Medical Advisory Committee and EMS Hospital Disaster Forum.
- Legislation concerning EMT and paramedic oversight and discipline.
- Formation of the EMS for Children (EMSC) Committee, charged with reviewing data and updating the EMSC plan, policies and procedures.
- California EMS Authority approval of Contra Costa Quality Improvement Plan in April 2008
- Updates on 2007/08 flu season and availability of flu vaccinations for 2008/09 flu season.
- Contra Costa EMS contract with State to receive an EMS Disaster Response Vehicle.
- July 15th Pan Flu Tabletop Exercise, held in conjunction with Health Services Public Health and the Sheriff's Office of the Coroner, focusing on alternate care sites, medical supplies and fatality management.
- Deployment of two DMAT members to rescue and recovery efforts taking place in Florida, the Gulf Coast and Texas.

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- Establishment of Helicopter Task Force, with a goal to more effective and efficient utilization of helicopter resources in the County.
- Board of Supervisor approval of the selection of San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District to provide ambulance services to Emergency Response Area IV.

II. Accomplishments

The EMCC:

- Approved the objectives for the EMS System Plan for 2006/07.
- Nominated and elected the following EMCC Officers for the term of November 1, 2007 through November 30, 2008:
 - Chair – Ellen Leng, MD
 - 1st Vice Chair – Allen Tobias, MD
 - 2nd Vice Chair – Kacey Hansen, RN
 - Executive Committee – Paul Freitas, MD and Leslie Mueller
- Continued work with Health Services Mental Health and Alameda/Contra Costa Medical Association to get hospital MOUs in place to reinstate a policy/procedure allowing emergency physicians to apply 5150 holds.
- Recognition of AMR Contra Costa for a full three-year “Gold Seal” accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CASS).

III. Attendance/Representation

The EMCC is a multidisciplinary committee with membership consisting of representation of specific EMS stakeholder groups and organizations plus one consumer member and one alternate nominated by each Board of Supervisor member. There are 27 member seats on the EMCC. Four seats were vacant due to no nominee submitted by the Public Managers’ Association, Contra Costa Sheriff-Coroner, EMS Training Institution, and Communication Center Managers’ Association.

The majority of EMCC representatives or alternates were regular participants. A quorum was achieved at each of the four EMCC meetings in the past year.

IV. Training/Certification

Each EMCC representative and alternate representative was given a copy of the Advisory Body Handbook and copies of the “The Brown Act and Better Government Ordinance - What you Need to Know as a Commission, Board or Committee Member” and “Ethics Orientation for County Officials” videotapes during their two-year term. Responsibilities of County Boards were discussed including the responsibility to view the videotapes and submit signed certifications. Certification forms have been received from 16 of 22 of the representatives and 9 of 17 alternates. One certification is attached, the rest having been submitted in previous years.

V. Proposed Work Plan/Objectives for Next Year

Report to the local EMS Agency its observations and recommendations relative to its review of:

- EMS System Plan 2008
- STEMI system function
- EMS for Children Plan
- EMS system evaluation through monitoring of EMS System QI Project Reports and Unusual Event Reporting System
- Continue to monitor the Mental Health Services system as it implements and completes the set up of the 5150 system.