



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY**



**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMISSION  
ANNUAL REPORT  
TO THE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**



**JULY 1, 2017 – JUNE 30, 2018**

Emergency Medical Services Agency  
10100 Pioneer Boulevard, Suite 200  
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

Telephone No. (562) 378-1500  
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Website: <http://ems.dhs.lacounty.gov>



## **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**Hilda L. Solis**  
First District

**Mark Ridley-Thomas**  
Second District

**Sheila Kuehl**  
Third District

**Janice Hahn**  
Fourth District

**Kathryn Barger**  
Fifth District



**Janice Hahn ~ Kathryn Barger ~ Sheila Kuehl ~ Hilda L. Solis ~ Mark Ridley-Thomas**

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMISSION**



**Erick H. Cheung, M.D.**  
**Chairman**  
Southern California Psychiatric  
Society



**John C. Hisserich, Dr. PH.**  
**Vice-Chairman**  
Public Member  
Third Supervisorial District



**Ellen Alkon, M.D.**  
The Southern California Public  
Health Association



**Mr. Joseph Salas**  
Public Member  
First Supervisorial District



**Lt. Brian S. Bixler**  
Peace Officers Association of  
Los Angeles County



**Marc Eckstein, M.D.**  
Los Angeles County  
Medical Association



**Fire Chief David White**  
Los Angeles Area Fire  
Chiefs' Association



**Lydia Lam, M.D.**  
American College of Surgeons



**James Lott, Psy.D.**  
Public Member  
Second Supervisorial District



**Mr. Robert Ower**  
Los Angeles County  
Ambulance Association



**Margaret Peterson, Ph.D.**  
Hospital Association of  
Southern California



**FF/Paramedic Paul Rodriguez**  
CA State Fire Fighters'  
Association



**Nerses Sanossian, M.D., FAHA**  
American Heart Association  
Western States Affiliate



**Carole A. Snyder, RN**  
Emergency Nurses  
Association



**Mr. Colin Tudor**  
League of California  
Cities/L.A. County Division



**Mr. Gary Washburn**  
Public Member  
Fifth Supervisorial District



**Mr. Pajmon Zarrineghbal**  
Public Member  
Fourth Supervisorial District



**Atilla Uner, MD, MPH**  
California Chapter American  
College of Emergency  
Physicians (CAL/ACEP)



**Ms. Cathy Chidester**  
Executive Director  
Director, EMS Agency



**Ms. Denise Watson**  
Commission Liaison  
Secretary, EMS Agency

**(Pending)**  
Los Angeles County Police  
Chiefs' Association

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## MISSION STATEMENT

To support and guide the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency activities to ensure timely, compassionate and quality emergency and disaster medical services. The Emergency Medical Services Commission's (EMSC) mission complements the County's mission through improving the quality of life for the people and community of Los Angeles County (LA County).

## REGULATORY FOUNDATION

State of California, Health and Safety Code Division 2.5, 1797.270 Emergency Medical Care Committee Formation

"An emergency medical care committee may be established in each county in the state"

1797.272, Emergency Medical Care Committee Membership

"The county board of supervisors shall prescribe the membership, and appoint the members, of the emergency medical care committee."

1797.274, Emergency Medical Care Committee Duties

1797.276, Emergency Medical Care Committee Annual Report

Los Angeles County Ordinance No. 12,332 – Chapter 3.20, EMS Commission

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Commission performs the functions defined in the California Health and Safety Code § 1797.274, Division 2.5, and Los Angeles County Ordinance No. 12,332 – Chapter 3.20, EMS Commission Act in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors (Board) and the Director of Health Services (DHS) regarding County policies, programs, and standards for emergency medical care services throughout the County, including paramedic services.

- Establish appropriate criteria for evaluation and conduct continuous evaluations on the basis of these criteria of the impact and quality of emergency medical care services throughout LA County.
- Conduct studies of particular elements of the emergency medical care system as requested by the Board, the Director of DHS or on its own initiative; delineate problems and deficiencies and recommend appropriate solutions.
- Acquire and analyze the information necessary for measuring the impact and the quality of emergency medical care services.
- Report its findings, conclusions and recommendations to the Board at least every twelve months.
- Review and comment on plans and proposals for emergency medical care services prepared by LA County departments.





- Recommend, when the need arises, that LA County engages independent contractors for the performance of specialized, temporary, or occasional services to the EMSC, which cannot be performed by members of the classified service, and for which the LA County otherwise has the authority to contract.
- Advise the Director and the DHS on the policies, procedures, and standards to control the certification of mobile intensive care nurses and paramedics. Proposals of any public or private organization to initiate or modify a program of paramedic services or training.
- To arbitrate differences in the field of paramedic services and training between all sectors of the community, including, but not limited to, county agencies, municipalities, public safety agencies, community colleges, hospitals, private companies, and physicians.



### **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The EMSC was established by the Board in October 1979 and on April 7, 1981, your Board approved and adopted Ordinance No. 12332, of Title 3 – Advisory Commissions and Committees, Los Angeles County Code, Chapter 3.20, Emergency Medical Services Commission, to establish the Commission in accordance with California H&S Code Sections 1797.270, 1797.272, 1797.274, and 1797.276 was approved and adopted.

On January 29, 2008, the Board approved amending the subject ordinance to revise the selection of the licensed paramedic representative previously nominated by the California Rescue and Paramedic Association and Paramedic Association be made by the California State Firefighters Association, Emergency Medical Services Committee, as the previous entity had ceased to operate.

On November 1, 2011, EMSC, in consultation with DHS, amended the ordinance to add two Commission seats for the members nominated by the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs’ Association (LACPCA) and Southern California Public Health Association (SCPHA) would be beneficial to the EMSC and the LA County and would allow for insightful law enforcement and public health expert input.

### **FOCUS IN PAST YEARS**

- Community Paramedicine Pilot Project in the County
- Physician Services for Indigent Program (PSIP) – Proposed reimbursement rates
- Pre-hospital care of behavioral emergencies: The EMSC recommended that an Ad Hoc committee be identified to develop a blueprint for addressing behavioral emergencies in the pre-hospital setting
- Monitor legislation of interest to emergency medical services
- Long Beach Fire Department’s two-year Rapid Medical Deployment (RMD) pilot project – 1+1 Paramedic staffing
- Implementation of electronic data using electronic Patient Care Record (ePCR) systems by all fire department 911 providers
- Bystander CPR training (Sidewalk CPR)

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND SIGNIFICANT OUTCOMES 2017/2018

- Approved the 2016/2017 EMS Annual Report at the November 15, 2017 meeting
- Recognized the members of the Hospital Emergency Response Team (HERT) and Alhambra Fire Department who responded to a horrific industrial injury requiring the bilateral leg amputation on scene
- The Chair and Executive Director represented the EMS Commission at the District Attorney's Committee on Mental Health Issues, and presented the ***"Ad Hoc Committee on Prehospital Care of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Emergencies' Final Report"***
- Developed and administered a survey on law enforcement dispatch and field response to mental health emergencies and issued report of findings
- Ambulance Patient Offload Time (APOT) Ad Hoc Workgroup recommended changes to the current Ref. 503.1 Request for Diversion
- Reviewed and recommended thirty-nine (39) policies for adoption by the EMS Agency
- Recommended approval of Ref. 817, Regional Mobile Response Team to allow for the use of the Mobile Stroke Unit



## ANNUAL WORK PLAN

### UPCOMING GOALS/OBJECTIVES

- Monitor legislation affecting the EMS system
- Educate stakeholders on EMS issues
- Review, provide feedback and support the ***"Ad Hoc Committee on Prehospital Care of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Emergencies' Final Report"*** recommendations
- Finalize the results of the law enforcement dispatch survey and review results with pertinent stakeholders
- Monitor implementation of the amended Ref. 503, Requests for Diversion, and the effect on the EMS System
- Continue to monitor progress of APOT data and recommend the best practice related to the data for optimum results
- Continue engagement with County committees that have similar missions and interests
- Continue engagement with Department of Mental Health on issues related to assessment, treatment and transport of patients in mental health crisis
- Continue to engage with law enforcement to support similar or overlapping response protocols, i.e., Tactical EMS, use of Narcan, transport of injured canine teams
- Ensure timely and complete data submission from all EMS providers by monitoring the progress of Stryker data system and Los Angeles County and City Fire Departments

**ONGOING LONG-TERM PROJECTS**

- Review and approve EMS Agency Policies
- The implementation of the recommendations found in ***“Ad Hoc Committee on Prehospital Care of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Emergencies’ Final Report”***
- Finalize the dispatch survey results, share with stakeholders and encourage implementation of recommendations
- Ensure that individuals seen and assessed within the 9-1-1 system are transported to the appropriate destination that is best suited to meet their needs, i.e., sobering centers and psychiatric urgent care centers
- Decrease ambulance patient offload times by monitoring Ref. 503 Diversion Requests and APOT data
- Support education efforts for bystander Hands-Only CPR (Sidewalk CPR)



**Commission Chair**



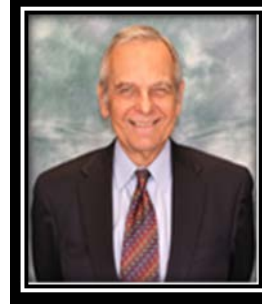
Erick H. Cheung, M.D.  
2017/2018

**Commission Vice-Chair**



Fire Chief David White  
2017

**Commission Vice-Chair**



John Hisserich, Dr.PH.  
2018

**Executive Director**



Cathy Chidester, R.N.  
2017/2018

**Commission Liaison**



Amelia Chavez  
2017

**Commission Liaison**



Denise Watson  
2018

**MEETING DATES**

- July 19, 2017
- September 20, 2017
- November 15, 2017
- January 17, 2018
- March 21, 2018
- May 16, 2018

**Special Meeting:**

April 11, 2018 - Public Hearing for the pending closure of Community Medical Center Long Beach

