

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



**JULY 1, 2018 – JUNE 30, 2019**

Emergency Medical Services Agency  
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## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMISSION



**Ellen Alkon, MD**  
Southern California Public  
Health Association



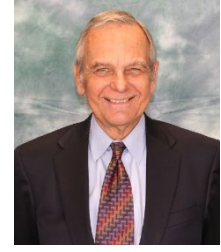
**Lt. Brian S. Bixler**  
Peace Officers Association  
of Los Angeles County



**Erick H. Cheung, MD**  
**Chairman 2017-2019**  
Southern California  
Psychiatric Society



**Chief Eugene Harris**  
Los Angeles County Police  
Chiefs' Association



**John C. Hisserich, DrPH**  
**Vice-Chair 2018**  
**Chairman a/o 1/2019**  
Public Member  
Third Supervisorial District



**Lydia Lam, MD**  
American College of Surgeons



**James Lott, PsyD**  
Public Member  
Second  
Supervisorial District



**Dr. Roxana Yoonessi-  
Martin**  
Los Angeles County Medical  
Association



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



**Margaret Peterson, PhD**  
Hospital Association of  
Southern California



**Paul Rodriguez,**  
**FF/Paramedic**  
California State Firefighters'  
Association



**Mr. Joseph Salas**  
**Vice-Chair a/o 1/2019**  
Public Member  
First Supervisorial District



**Nerses Sanossian, MD**  
American Heart  
Association  
Western States Affiliate



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



**Ms. Diana Tang**  
League of California  
Cities/L.A. County Division



**Atilla Uner, MD, MPH**  
California Chapter American  
College of Emergency  
Physicians



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



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



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



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



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

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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).

### **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND / REGULATORY FOUNDATION**

The EMSC was established by the Board of Supervisors (Board) in October 1979, and on April 7, 1981, the 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 Health and Safety Code Division 2.5, Sections:

- 1797.270 – Emergency Medical Care Committee Formation
- 1797.272 – Emergency Medical Care Committee Membership
- 1797.274 – Emergency Medical Care Committee Duties
- 1797.276 – Emergency Medical Care Committee Annual Report

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 be made by the California State Firefighters Association Emergency Medical Services Committee as the previous entity had ceased to operate.

On November 1, 2011, the EMSC, in consultation with the Department of Health Services, 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) that would be beneficial to the EMSC and the County, and would allow for law enforcement and public health expert input. With this amendment, the addition of two Commission seats increased the number of commissioners from 17 to 19.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

The EMSC is currently comprised of 19 commissioners who are non-County employees, and who act in an advisory capacity to the Board and the Director of Health Services. They advise on matters relative to emergency medical care and practices, and EMS policies, programs, and standards including paramedic services throughout the County of Los Angeles. There is an Executive Director and a Commission Liaison who are County employees, and who serve as staff to the Commission.

### **FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES**

The EMS Commission performs the functions of the Emergency Medical Care Committee as defined in Sections 1750 et seq. of the Health and Safety Code, and includes the following duties:

- Act in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors and the Director of Health Services 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.

#### **FOCUS IN PAST YEARS**

- Community Paramedicine Pilot Project in the County
- 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
- Implementation of electronic data using electronic Patient Care Record (ePCR) systems by all fire department 9-1-1 providers
- Bystander CPR training (Sidewalk CPR)
- Recognized the members of the Hospital Emergency Response Team (HERT) and Alhambra Fire Department who responded to a patient with a horrific industrial injury requiring the bilateral leg amputation on scene
- 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 policies for adoption by the EMS Agency

#### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND SIGNIFICANT OUTCOMES FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2018-19**

- Approved the FY 2017-18 EMSC Annual Report at the September 19, 2018 meeting
- Presented results of the law enforcement dispatch and field response survey at the Los Angeles Police Chiefs' Association's Annual meeting
- Education Advisory Committee dissolved with two positions added to the Provider Agency Advisory Committee to represent an EMT and paramedic training program
- Impact Report to the Board of Supervisors for the July 3, 2018 closure of Community Medical Center Long Beach
- Approved Prehospital Care Policies to include Policy Reference Numbers:
  - 312: Pediatric Liaison Nurse
  - 416: Assessment Unit
  - 503.1: Diversion Request Requirements for Emergency Department Saturation
  - 506: Trauma Triage
  - 516: Cardiac Arrest Patient Destination
  - 704: Assessment Unit Inventory

- 814: Determination/Pronouncement of Death in the Field
- 840: Medical Support During Tactical Operations
- 1006: Paramedic Accreditation
- 1010: Mobile Intensive Care Nurse (MICN) Certification
- 1011: Mobile Intensive Care Nurse (MICN) Field Observation

## ANNUAL WORK PLAN

### UPCOMING GOALS/OBJECTIVES

- Monitor legislation affecting the EMS system
- Educate stakeholders on EMS Update training and issues
- Advise the EMS Agency on minimal requirements for 9-1-1 receiving hospital designation
- Review, provide feedback and support the ***“Ad Hoc Committee on Prehospital Care of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Emergencies’ Final Report”*** recommendations
- Continue to 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

### ONGOING LONG-TERM PROJECTS

- Review and recommend approval of EMS Agency policies
- Implementation of the recommendations found in ***“Ad Hoc Committee on Prehospital Care of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Emergencies’ Final Report”***
- Share the results of the law enforcement dispatch and field response survey 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, emergency departments 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)
- Support Los Angeles Police Department’s pilot project to triage 9-1-1 calls related to suicidal ideation to the Suicide Hotline
- Arrive Alive ePCR Pilot Program as utilization of the Lucas device to treat patients in cardiac arrest
- Monitor Public Safety Naloxone Program Participation
- Paramedic Provider Program Approval
- Participate on Measure B Advisory Board Committee
- Medical Support During Tactical Operations Policy No. 840 – emergency medical transport of police dogs by ambulance during tactical operations when injured in the line of duty
- ECG Task Force
- Trauma Triage
- EMS Commission Bylaws Revised
- Data Agreement Use

- Master Agreements
- System-Wide Provider Impression Quality Improvement Fallout Tracking
- Revised Prehospital Treatment Protocols and Medical Control Guidelines
- Trauma System Status Report
- Paramedic Pioneers Look Back on 50 Years