



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMISSION
10100 Pioneer Boulevard, Suite 200, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670
(562) 378-1604 FAX (562) 941-5835
<http://ems.dhs.lacounty.gov>

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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First District

Holly J. Mitchell

Second District

Sheila Kuehl

Third District

Janice Hahn

Fourth District

Kathryn Barger

Fifth District

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LA County Medical Association

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Los Angeles County Police Chiefs' Assn.

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American College of Surgeons

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Carol Meyer, RN

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League of Calif. Cities/LA County Division

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American Heart Association

Western States Affiliate

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Emergency Nurses Association

Atilla Uner, MD, MPH

California Chapter-American College of

Emergency Physicians (CAL-ACEP)

Mr. Gary Washburn

Public Member (5th District)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cathy Chidester

(562) 378-1604

CChidester@dhs.lacounty.gov

COMMISSION LIAISON

Denise Watson

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December 15, 2020

TO: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

FROM: Cathy Chidester 
Executive Director

SUBJECT: **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMISSION**
ANNUAL REPORT – FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020

Attached is the Annual Report of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Commission for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. This report is being submitted to the Board of Supervisors in compliance with Los Angeles County Code Title 3, Chapter 3.20 Section 3.20.070.5. The attached report includes the EMS Commission's Mission, Historical Background, Annual Workplan, Prior Year Accomplishments, and Ongoing Long-Term Projects during the period of July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020.

The EMS Commission is composed of 19 members who represent 13 emergency medical services associations and medical professional affiliates, five public members representing each Supervisor's District, and one member representing the cities in Los Angeles County.

The EMS Commission meets on the third Wednesday of every odd month from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the EMS Agency. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the EMS Commission has conducted its meetings via Zoom Video Conferencing since May 20, 2020.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (562) 378-1604 or cchidester@dhs.lacounty.gov. You may also contact Denise Watson, Secretary, Health Services Commission, at (562) 378-1606 or dwatson@dhs.lacounty.gov.

CC:DW

Attachment

c: Christina R. Ghaly, M.D., Director of Health Services
Hal F. Yee, Jr., M.D., Ph.D., Chief Deputy Director, Clinical Affairs, DHS
Ed Morrissey, County Counsel
Celia Zavala, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Health Deputies, Board of Supervisors
EMS Commissioners



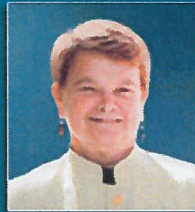
**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMISSION
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2020**



Hilda L. Solis
First District



Mark Ridley-Thomas
Second District



Sheila Kuehl
Third District



Janice Hahn
Fourth District



Kathryn Barger
Fifth District

**Emergency Medical Services Agency
10100 Pioneer Boulevard, Suite 200 Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670
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Website: <http://ems.dhs.lacounty.gov>**





Ellen Alkon, MD
Southern California
Public Health Association



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



Erick H. Cheung, MD
Chairman 2017-1/2019
Southern California
Psychiatric Society



Chief Eugene Harris
Los Angeles County Police
Chiefs' Association



John C. Hisserich, DrPH
Chairman 1/2019-2020
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
Vice-Chair 2020
California State Firefighters'
Association



Mr. Joseph Salas
Vice-Chair 2019
Public Member
First Supervisorial District



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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

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) complements the County's mission through improving the quality of life for the people and community of Los Angeles County.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

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 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, 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 of 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/accreditation of mobile intensive care nurses and paramedics.
- Advise the Director on 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.

ANNUAL WORKPLAN

The EMS Commission's goals and objectives for the upcoming year support the County's mission, vision and strategic priorities through collaborative partnerships with County and City front-line workers, provider agencies, labor unions and the people of the communities we serve in the County of Los Angeles. Through our commitment to building quality health care systems to improve the lives of those we serve, we will provide better care and greater access to exceptional health care services for the residents of Los Angeles County. With systems in place that enrich people's lives through effective and caring services that they can access quickly in times of medical emergencies and disasters, we can create a healthier community.

Goals and Objectives:

- Review and recommend policies for adoption by the EMS Agency
- Advise on the impact of emergency medical care practices related to paramedic and EMT services and training
- Advise on EMS policies
- Monitor legislation affecting the EMS system
- Through Committee process, advise and recommend topics for education
- Conduct required public hearings.
- Evaluate and understand the interaction between law and fire in response to patients with behavioral health emergencies.
- Make recommendations to the EMS Agency on any changes that would improve the delivery of emergency response and care to behavioral health emergencies and substance abuse
- Continue to engage with law enforcement to support similar or overlapping response protocols, i.e., tactical EMS, use of restraint and midazolam in field, and dispatch and triage of 9-1-1 calls
- Continue to monitor APOT data and work with ambulance and hospital providers to reduce ambulance patient offload times (APOT) and recommend the best practices to address offload delays.
- Support the EMS Agency's efforts to ensure timely and accurate data submission from all EMS providers and Specialty Care Centers.
- Ensure constituent groups are aware of the Measure B process and allocations and participate on Measure B Advisory Board
- Maintain awareness of the EMS Agency's COVID-19 activities related to the coordination of response and data collection/analysis

ONGOING LONG-TERM PROJECTS

- Prehospital Care of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Emergencies: Continue to address the recommendation made by the Ad Hoc Committee and implement as addressed.
- Monitor legislation of interest to emergency medical services
- Support education efforts for Bystander, Hands-Only CPR training (Sidewalk CPR)
- Support the EMS Agency in efforts to 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
- Monitor and support to ensure 9-1-1 ambulance transport readiness through supporting the Ad hoc Committee's ultimate recommendations to decrease ambulance patient offload times
- Monitor and support EMS pilot and trial studies to improve the delivery of emergency medical care and transportation.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND SIGNIFICANT OUTCOMES FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019-2020

- Approved the FY 2018-19 EMSC Annual Report at the November 20, 2019 meeting
- Presented the Police Chiefs' response to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Emergencies Report at the Los Angeles Area Police Chiefs' Conference
- Conducted the required public hearing on the Closure of Glendora Community Hospital's General Acute Care Services
- Approved the Impact Report and recommended submission to the Board of Supervisors for the Closure of Glendora Community Hospital's General Acute Care Services
- Approved EMS Commission Bylaws and Specific Committees
- Through the new Bylaws, discontinued the Education Advisory Committee and added two positions to the Provider Agency Advisory Committee to represent an EMT and Paramedic
- Approved nominating committee and standing committee selections
- Provided written support of Los Angeles Police Department's pilot project training program to divert 9-1-1 suicide ideation calls to the Suicide Prevention Hotline
- Recommended approval of Prehospital Care Policies to include Policy Reference Numbers:
 - 207: EMS Commission Advisory Committees
 - 304: Paramedic Base Hospital Standards
 - 316: Emergency Department Approved for Pediatric (EDAP) Standards
 - 318: Pediatric Medical Center (PMC) Standards
 - 320: ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) Receiving Center (SRC) Standards
 - 320.3: SRC Performance Measures
 - 324: Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Center Standards
 - 406: Authorization for Paramedic Provide Status
 - 412: AED Requirements
 - 412.1: AED Application
 - 412.2: AED Annual Report
 - 418: Authorization and Classification of EMS Aircraft
 - 451.1: Ambulance Licensing Administrative Fines
 - 451.1a: Private Ambulance Medical and Protective Equipment
 - 506: Trauma Triage
 - 506.2: 9-1-1 Trauma Re-Triage
 - 510: Pediatric Patient Destination
 - 608: Retention of Records
 - 612: Release of EMS Records

- 622: Release of EMS Data
- 701: Supply and Resupply of EMS Units
- 702: Controlled Drugs Carried on ALS Units
- 703: ALS Unit Inventory
- 710: Basic Life Support Ambulance Equipment
- 712: Nurse Staffed Specialty Care Transport Unit Inventory
- 713: RCP Staffed SCT Inventory
- 832: Treatment/Transport of Minors
- 901: Paramedic Training Program Approval
- 1350: Medical Control Guideline: Pediatric Patients