



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**Hilda L. Solis**

First District

**Holly J. Mitchell**

Second District

**Lindsey P. Horvath**

Third District

**Janice K. Hahn**

Fourth District

**Kathryn Barger**

Fifth District

**COMMISSIONERS**

**Diego Caivano, MD, Chair**

LA County Medical Association

**Paul Camacho, Chief**

LA County Police Chiefs' Association

**Mr. Jason Cervantes**

California Professional Firefighters

**Erick H. Cheung, MD**

Southern California Psychiatric Society

Association

**Mr. Kenneth Domer**

League of California Cities LA County

**Tarina Kang, MD**

Hospital Association of Southern CA

**Ms. Carol Kim**

Public Member (1<sup>st</sup> District)

**Captain Kristin Kolenda**

LA County Peace Officers' Association

**Lydia Lam, MD**

American College of Surgeons

**Mr. Kenneth Liebman**

LA County Ambulance Association

**James Lott, PsyD, MBA**

Public Member (2<sup>nd</sup> District)

**Carol Meyer, RN**

Public Member (4<sup>th</sup> District)

**Chief Kenneth Powell**

LA Area Fire Chiefs' Association

**Connie Richey, RN**

Public Member (3<sup>rd</sup> District)

**Stephen Sanko, MD, Vice Chair**

American Heart Association Western

States Region

**Carole A. Snyder, RN**

Greater LA County Chapter Emergency

Nurses Association California State

Council

**Saran Tucker, PhD, MPH**

Southern California Public Health

Association

**Atila Uner, MD, MPH**

California Chapter-American College of

Emergency Physicians (CAL-ACEP)

**Mr. Gary Washburn**

Public Member (5<sup>th</sup> District)

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Richard Tadeo**

(562) 378-1610

[RTadeo@dhs.lacounty.gov](mailto:RTadeo@dhs.lacounty.gov)

**COMMISSION LIAISON**

**Denise Watson**

(562) 378-1606

[DWatson@dhs.lacounty.gov](mailto:DWatson@dhs.lacounty.gov)

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
SERVICES COMMISSION**

10100 Pioneer Boulevard, Suite 200, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

(562) 378-1610 FAX (562) 941-5835

<http://ems.dhs.lacounty.gov>

September 10, 2025

TO: Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Chair  
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis  
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell  
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath  
Supervisor Janice K. Hahn

FROM: Richard Tadeo, EMS Director, EMS Agency  
Executive Director, EMS Commission

SUBJECT: **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
COMMISSION – FISCAL YEAR 2024-25**

Respectfully submitted, is the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Annual Report of the Emergency Medical Services Commission (EMSC) activities and is being submitted in compliance with LA County Code Title 3, Chapter 3.20, Section 3.20.070.5.

The Annual Report will provide a snapshot into EMS Agency policies and medical control guidelines reviewed and/or approved during the fiscal year, as well as a look at legislation reviewed that may have potential impact to the emergency medical care system.

The EMSC meetings continue to be held in person at the EMS Agency located at 10100 Pioneer Boulevard, First Floor, Cathy Chidester Conference Room 128, Santa Fe Springs, California, 90670, on the third Wednesday of every odd-numbered month beginning with January as month one (1), from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Please feel free to contact me by phone or email with any questions or concerns you may have at (562) 378-1610 or [RTadeo@dhs.lacounty.gov](mailto:RTadeo@dhs.lacounty.gov). You may also contact EMSC Liaison, Denise Watson, at (562) 378-1606 or [DWatson@dhs.lacounty.gov](mailto:DWatson@dhs.lacounty.gov).

RT:DW

Attachment

c: Christina R. Ghaly, M.D., Director of Health Services  
Aries Limbaga, M.D., Chief Deputy Director, Health Services Operations  
Edward Morrissey, Assistant County Counsel  
Georgina Glaviano, Deputy County Counsel  
Edward Yen, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Health Deputies, Board of Supervisors  
EMS Commission



**County of Los Angeles, California  
Emergency Medical Services Commission  
Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors  
Fiscal Year 2024–2025**



**County of Los Angeles  
Department of Health Services  
Emergency Medical Services Agency  
10100 Pioneer Boulevard, Suite 200  
Santa Fe Springs, California 90670  
Phone: (562) 378-1500 / Fax: (562) 941-5835  
<http://ems.dhs.lacounty.gov>**



## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Hilda L. Solis  
First District

Holly J. Mitchell  
Second District

Lindsey P. Horvath  
Third District

Janice Hahn  
Fourth District

Kathryn Barger  
Fifth District

### ***FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK***

The County of Los Angeles Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency is committed to creating, updating, and implementing new and existing policies and medical control guidelines that produce high levels of quality patient care in the prehospital emergency medical care setting. We provide State EMT certifications, ambulance licensing, emergency medical and disaster dispatch services, and are home to the Paramedic Training Institute where paramedics and mobile intensive care nurses receive EMS updates and training.



Our team of medical doctors and nurses, EMS healthcare professionals and providers, as well as our EMS support staff are dedicated to working collectively in the advancement of medical technology through innovation, pilot programs, medical trials and studies, EMS updates and training, and collaborations with our EMS partners and stakeholders. Through these strategic alliances, we can identify and develop standards of care that become best practices in healthcare with measurable, deliverable, and effective patient outcomes.

The EMS Commission (EMSC) provides valuable insight, guidance and support to the EMS Agency on policies and guidelines that ensure safety nets are in place and producing extraordinary and appropriate protections for our residents. The Annual Report is provided to the Board of Supervisors to report on Commission activities and legislation with potential impact to the EMS system.

As Director of the EMS Agency and Executive Director of the EMS Commission, I am honored to work together with the high caliber of Supervisors, Commissioners, EMS partners, stakeholders, and exceptional groups of knowledgeable and engaged professionals who represent the success of the emergency medical and disaster-related system of care in LA County. Many thanks to each of you for your dedication, hard work, and significant contributions.

Sincerely,

Richard Tadeo, RN, BSN  
EMS Director  
EMSC Executive Director

---

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

To support and guide the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency activities to ensure timely, compassionate, and quality emergency and disaster medical services.

## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The Emergency Medical Services Commission (EMSC) was established by the Board of Supervisors (Board) in October 1979. 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 (CRPA) to be made by the California State Firefighters' Association Emergency Medical Services Committee because CRPA ceased operations.

On November 1, 2011, in consultation with the Department of Health Services (DHS), the EMSC amended the Ordinance to add two commission seats. One member to be nominated by the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs' Association (LACPCA), and the second to be nominated by the Southern California Public Health Association (SCPHA). These seats are beneficial to the EMSC and the County by allowing for expert input by law enforcement and public health. With this amendment, the addition of two commission seats increased the number of commissioners from 17 to 19. The EMSC makes recommendations on Ordinance updates as the nominating associations' names change with time. The integrity of the EMSC stays intact and remains at 19.

## **COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP**

The EMSC consists of 19 members seated on behalf of medical and health associations, city and county professionals, law enforcement and fire department agencies, and one public member from each County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors' District. The Executive Director and EMS Commission Liaison are County employees and represent the EMSC as staff.

## **ABOUT THE COMMISSION**

The EMSC acts in an advisory capacity to the Board and the Department of Health Services (DHS) on matters impacting emergency medical and disaster care services. The EMSC performs functions of the Emergency Medical Care Committee as defined in Sections 1750 et seq. of the Health and Safety Code and reviews policies and procedures impacting prehospital care for LA County residents. Duties include:

- Acting in an advisory capacity to the Board and DHS regarding County policies, programs, and standards for emergency medical and disaster care services throughout the County, including paramedic services
- Monitors studies of elements of the emergency medical care system and its initiatives as requested by the Board and/or the Director of DHS and delineates problems and deficiencies and recommends appropriate solutions.
- Acquires and analyzes information necessary for measuring the impact and quality of emergency medical care services.
- Reports findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the Board.
- Reviews and comments on submitted plans and proposals for emergency medical care services.
- Recommends, when the need arises, that LA County engage independent contractors for the performance of specialized temporary or occasional services to the EMSC which members of the classified service cannot perform and for which LA County otherwise has the authority to contract.

- Advises the Director on policies, procedures and standards that affect the certification/accreditation of mobile intensive care nurses and paramedics.
- Advises the Director on proposals of any public or private organization to initiate or modify a program of paramedic services or training.
- Arbitrates 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.
- Conducts regular meetings and public hearings.
- Participates on EMSC Standing Committees: Provider Agency Advisory and Base Hospital Advisory.

## MEETINGS

The EMSC meetings are held in accordance with The Ralph M. Brown Act which is a California state law that mandates meetings are open to the public, allow free public access, and allow for public comments concerning public business.

Meetings are in-person and held at the EMS Agency on the third Wednesday of every odd-numbered month with January as month one (1) from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. The agenda is posted in advance on the EMS Agency Website under the EMS Commission Agenda tab, and on the front door of the EMS Agency located at:

Emergency Medical Services Agency:  
10100 Pioneer Boulevard, First Floor  
Cathy Chidester Conference Room 128  
Santa Fe Springs, California 90670  
(562) 378-1500  
<http://ems.dhs.lacounty.gov/>

### Regular Meeting Dates in FY 2024-25

July 17, 2024 – September 18, 2024 – November 20, 2024  
January 15, 2025 – March 12, 2025 – May 21, 2025

## ANNUAL WORKPLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR FY 2025-26

The EMS Commission's goals and objectives align with the County's and DHS's mission, vision, and values through strategic alliances and establishing workgroups to develop studies and surveys and analyze policies and practices to identify solutions that ensure measurable, quality outcomes for patients and communities in Los Angeles County.

### Goals and Objectives:

- Continue monitoring processes/policies to address/reduce Ambulance Patient Offload Delays (APOD).
- Support collaborative efforts of EMS constituents to identify throughput issues that contribute to APOD.
- Support the implementation of ambulance offload teams to assist hospitals with extreme APOD.
- Continue working on recommendations from the ad hoc committee on the Prehospital Care of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Emergencies, specifically suicide risk protocols.
- Establish behavioral health workgroup to address suicide risk protocols, focus on field evaluation of suicidal ideation, develop guidelines and education to address assessment and management of patients experiencing suicidal ideation.
- Establish workgroup to address cardiac arrest outcomes to improve the quality of care.
- Monitor progress of ad hoc workgroup on Interfacility Transport (IFT) delays on critical care transports.
- Monitor the success of EMS Update 2025-26 on behavioral health emergencies and treatment protocols.
- Review and recommend policies, directives, and pilots for adoption by the EMS Agency.
- Monitor changes to treatment protocols.
- Support disaster planning with emphasis on broader regional disaster plans.
- Support EMT/paramedic training programs that serve the underserved communities.

- Monitor progress of ad hoc workgroup for LA County EMS Corps Programs.
- Invite subject matter experts to provide information and training in the field of emergency medical care.
- Monitor State and federal legislation affecting the EMS system.
- Advise on and recommend topics for EMS education.
- Support the EMS Agency's efforts to ensure timely and accurate data submission from all EMS providers and specialty care centers.
- Participate on the Measure B Advisory Board and ensure constituent groups are aware of the Measure B allocation process of the un-allocated Measure B funds.
- Support the monitoring of the Emergency Ambulance Transportation Agreements which expire in 2027.

### **ONGOING LONG-TERM PROJECTS**

- Monitor processes/policies to address and reduce Ambulance Patient Offload Delays (APOD).
- Continue working on recommendations from the ad hoc committee on the Prehospital Care of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Emergencies, specifically suicide risk protocols.
- Monitor the progress of the Field Evaluation of Suicidal Ideation and Behavior Workgroup.
- Support annual EMS Update training for EMS professionals and providers.
- Support education efforts for Bystander, Hands-Only CPR training (Sidewalk CPR).
- Monitor legislation with potential impact to the EMS system.
- Monitor and support the Public Works Alliance – EMS Corps programs established in LA County.
- Monitor and support EMS pilots and trial studies to improve the delivery of emergency medical care.
- Monitor Alternative Destination Volume Reports for psychiatric urgent care and sobering center facilities that EMS transports directly to.
- Monitor, support, and make recommendations to the Cardiac Arrest Care ad hoc workgroup for improvements in patient outcomes.
- Continue to support the collaboration of EMS-Law Enforcement Co-Response (ELCoR) workgroup.
- Monitor and support pilot project with service area hospitals' pilot to eliminate service area boundaries.
- Monitor effectiveness of FirstWatch system implementation on real-time dispatch data information.
- Continue monitoring resource allocations in emergency situations.
- Continue to monitor the progress of the State EMS Authority on changes to Chapter 5.
- Continue to monitor progress of General Public Ambulance Rate Increases and recommendations.

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND SIGNIFICANT OUTCOMES FISCAL YEAR 2024-25**

- Approved the FY 2023-24 EMSC Annual Report at the September 11, 2024, meeting.
- Approved EMSC Ordinance changes.
- Approved re-vote on Consent Calendar if lack of quorum.
- Monitored Implementation and rollout of FirstWatch real-time data on ambulances waiting to offload.
- Monitored separate policy addressing APOT and APOD.
- Supported redistribution of the CHA APOT Toolkit.
- Monitored pilot project on the Medical Control Guideline for Suicide Risk Assessment.
- Established new EMSC goals and objectives for FY 2025-26.
- Recommended re-establishment of ad hoc workgroup to advance the September 2016 *Prehospital Care of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Emergencies* Report recommendations.
- Recommended Ordinance Changes to Los Angeles County Ordinance, Chapter 3.20: Emergency Medical Services Commission Section 3.20.040: Composition due to association name changes, and established membership have nexus to work in or practice in LA County.
- Approved Ordinance change for paramedic to be nominated by California Professional Firefighters.
- Endorsed language changes in the EMSC Ordinance membership to include a requirement for commissioners to work in or practice in Los Angeles County.
- Monitored psychiatric urgent care and alternate transport volumes and outcomes of transports.
- Endorsed and monitored EMS pilot projects and system enhancement tools (ECMO, First Watch, igel).
- Monitored legislation impacting the EMS system and Board priorities.
- Approved new Chair and Vice Chair selections for 2024 and 2025.

- 
- Approved Commissioner selection for EMSC Measure B Advisory Board Representation and approved nominating committee and standing committee selections.
  
  - Prehospital Care Policies and Medical Control Guidelines Reviewed:
    - 205: Innovation, Technology, and Advancement Committee (ITAC)
    - 215: EMS and Law Enforcement Co-Response Committee
    - 222: Downgrade or Closure of 9-1-1 receiving hospital, Perinatal, Inpatient Psychiatric or emergency Medical Services
    - 411: 9-1-1 Provider Agency Medical Director (Held)
    - 420: Private Ambulance Operator Medical Director
    - 505: Ambulance Patient Offload Time (APOT)
    - 515: Air Ambulance Transport
    - 519: Management of Multiple Casualty Incidents
    - 702: Controlled Drugs Carried on ALS, SCT and APRU Units
    - 817: Regional Mobile Response Teams
    - 823: Elder Abuse and Dependent Adult Abuse Reporting Guidelines
    - 1116: Hospital – Adopt-A-Shelter Program (For Deletion)
    - 1124: Disaster Preparedness Exercise/Drills
    - 1130: Trauma Center Emergency Preparedness
    - 1306: Evaluation and Care of Patients at Risk of Suicide
  
  - Legislation Reviewed:
    - AB 40: Requires local emergency medical services agencies (LEMSAs) to develop a standard ambulance patient offload time (APOT) not to exceed 30 minutes 90 percent of the time. This bill passed.
    - AB 1168: Retroactively awards 201 rights of EMS providers, cities, and fire districts to continue providing prehospital emergency medical services at the same level and with the same administration as they did before June 1, 1980, under specific conditions. This bill results from a lawsuit where the City of Oxnard vs. the County of Ventura had a joint power agreement and Oxnard wanted to separate from the exclusive operating area which would leave less affluent areas without the same level of service and fragment the EMS system. This bill was approved by the Senate and Assembly. L.A. County opposes this bill and is actively campaigning for Governor Gavin Newsom to veto this bill.
    - SB 1180: Requires insurers to cover community paramedicine, triage to alternate destinations, and mobile integrated health. This will go through Appropriations Committee. This is a wait-and-see bill.
    - AB 2075: Restriction of visitation at long-term care facilities – patients cannot leave, and no visitors are allowed during a public health emergency. This is a wait-and-see bill.
    - EMS Regulations – Chapter 1 (Previously Chapter 13): Emergency Medical Services Authority and Commission on Emergency Medical Services. The adopting agency requested its conflict-of-interest code be incorporated by reference into the California Code of Regulations (CCR). The State is moving forward with legislation. Complex issue dealing primarily with emergency transportation. Issues regarding grandfather rights and the administration of EMS need to be resolved.
    - EMS Regulations – Chapter 6: Specialty Care Programs – STEMI, Stroke, EMS for Children, and Trauma were all separate Chapters that have all been combined as Chapter 6. The deadline for public comment submissions was April 3, 2025.
    - EMS Regulations – Chapter 7: Trauma Care Systems. This is with the Office of Administrative Law. It will be renumbered and incorporated into the Specialty Care Center Designation Regulations along with STEMI, Stroke, and EMS for Children.

- The Big Bill: Under the new federal administration and funding, there is an anticipated billion dollar cut in Medi-Cal, and it will have significant impacts on programs for the undocumented population.
- Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) funding has been approved through Congress for the next few years.

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMISSION**



Diego Caivano, MD,  
Chair – 2025  
LA County Medical Association



Erick H. Cheung, MD, PhD  
Southern California Psychiatric  
Society



Paul Espinosa, Chief  
Los Angeles County Police  
Chiefs' Association

Photo Not Available  
Connie Richey, RN  
Public Member  
Third Supervisorial District

Photo Not Available  
Kristin Kolenda  
Peace Officers Association



Lydia Lam, MD  
American College of Surgeons



James Lott, PsyD, MBA  
Public Member  
Second Supervisorial District



Carol Meyer, RN  
Vice Chair – 2024  
Public Member, Fourth District



Brian Saeki, City Manager  
League of California Cities  
Los Angeles County Division



Tarina Kang, M.D.  
Hospital Association of Southern  
California



Kenneth Liebman  
Los Angeles County Ambulance  
Association



Kenneth Powell, Chief  
Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs'  
Association



Jason Cervantes, Firefighter/  
Paramedic, California  
Professional Firefighters



Saran Tucker, Ph.D., MPH  
Southern California Public Health  
Association



Ms. Carol Kim  
Public Member  
First Supervisorial District



Stephen Sanko, MD  
Vice Chair – 2025  
American Heart Association  
Western States Affiliate



Carole A. Snyder, RN  
Chair – 2024  
Emergency Nurses Association



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



Mr. Gary Washburn  
Public Member  
Fifth Supervisorial District



Richard Tadeo, RN, BSN  
EMS Agency Director  
EMSC Executive Director



Denise Watson, BSB  
Secretary, HS Commission  
EMS Commission Liaison