



**Rick Espino**  
*Chair*

**Virginia Jones**  
*Vice Chair*

# Emergency Medical Care Commission

**SAN BENITO COUNTY**

**DAVID GHILARDUCCI, M.D.**  
*Medical Director*

## San Benito County Emergency Medical Care Commission

### Meeting Minutes

November 4, 2015

#### **I. Call to Order / Introductions:**

The Meeting was called to order by Rick Espino, at 1:37 p.m.

##### **Voting Members Present:**

Air Ambulance Provider	Cortney McPhee
City of San Juan Bautista	John Fox
Contracted Ambulance Provider	Virginia Jones
Hollister/San Benito County Fire Department	Josh Buzzetta
Member at Large	Rick Espino
San Benito Healthcare District-Hazel Hawkins Memorial Hospital	Karen O'Connell, RN

##### **Non – Voting Members Present:**

EMS Medical Director	Dave Ghilarducci, M.D.
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##### **Voting Members Absent:**

American Red Cross-Local Chapter	Rosemary Maire
Aromas Tri- County Fire Protection District	Reno DiTuillio, Jr.
Bureau of Land Management-Hollister Field Office	Mike Chiodini
CAL FIRE – San Benito/Monterey Unit	Henry Flores
California Dept. of Parks & Rec. Hollister Hills SVRA	Eric Sturm
California Highway Patrol – Hollister/Gilroy Office	Herb Kellogg
Hollister Police Department	Dave Westrick
National Park Service - Pinnacles National Park	Janette Lemons
Public Safety Communications Center	Dennis Kidd
San Benito County Board of Supervisor	Robert Rivas
San Benito County Sheriff/Coroner	Steve Van Den Heuvel

##### **Non-Voting Members Absent:**

EMS Administrator	Vacant
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##### **Others Present:**

County EMS	Dixie Zamzow
Cal Fire	Steve Torres
California Highway Patrol	Chris Miceli
Hazel Hawkins Hospital	Ed Savay, MD
Office of Emergency Service	Kevin O'Neill/Kris Mangano
San Benito County Public Health	Ryan Dehart
San Benito County Sheriff	Don Bradley

**II. Approval of EMCC Minutes of September 2, 2015**

The minutes of September 2, 2015 could not be approved due to not having a quorum.

**III. Public Comment:**

None

**IV. Public Information/Education:**

Kris Mangano with OES stated they are sponsoring three winter storm preparedness classes, one in San Juan Bautista and two in Hollister. These classes will include El Nino forecast, Red Cross will have emergency preparedness kits, information on where to get sand bags, what to do before, during and after the floods, how to drive where there are water puddles and talk on how the city and county are preparing. Kris distributed a flyer on the classes. She also stated OES is pushing "Code Red" alert system, which is a reverse 911 system.

**V. EMS Medical Director's Report – Dr. David Ghilarducci:**

EMS Manager – Vacancy

Dr. Ghilarducci spoke on Marcie Morrow's retirement with San Benito County. He stated it was a real pleasure to work with her. She had tremendous educational knowledge for EMS and she will be greatly missed, she will be hard to replace. The future of EMS is up in the air at this point.

In the coming months there will be discussions of the organization changes for the EMS agency and filling the vacancies. The focus right now is to continue keeping everything running smoothly.

Update on STEMI Program

Dr. Ghilarducci explained there were some problems with getting the equipment that transmits the 12 lead EKG to Salinas Valley Memorial and Hazel Hawkins Hospital. Starting November 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM for ground transport around HWY 101 – San Juan Bautista area it will be Paramedic judgement on where to take a STEMI patient. Salinas Valley Memorial has agreed to take a verbal report for STEMI patients for now. Air transport will take care of STEMI patients in the South County.

EMS Fire Standby

Dr. Ghilarducci spoke on having a request to have EMS stand by services in the recent fire in San Benito County, AMR got resources there right away.

Reciprocal Credentialing for EMT's & Paramedics

Dr. Ghilarducci stated San Benito, Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties could benefit from having the reciprocal credentialing process. He is moving ahead on getting this started.

**VI. Old Business:**

Ad Hoc Committee – Ambulance Transport of Psych Patients

Dr. Ghilarducci explained this is still a struggle. AMR having just purchasing Rural Metro in Santa Clara will make it a bit easier to move units between the counties and cover the corners better. Finding ways to fund these transports and finding places to take these patients is going to continue to be a problem. We will need to be a bit more imaginative on how to move these patients.

A meeting has been scheduled to include HHH, Behavioral Health to come up with a plan so that it does not impact EMS services and work out a strategy on who is responsible to finance these transfers. Karen stated Rebecca will reconvene the Ad Hoc committee meetings after this meeting next week. Hazel Hawkins believes Behavioral Health should be doing more for their patients. Sheriff department will also be a part as they have some outstanding issues; Rebecca and Dr. Scherr have been trying to connect with them.

Trauma Center Update – Hazel Hawkins Memorial Hospital

Karen O’Connell reported the trauma center is underway, Trina is gathering data, one challenge is getting staff to call trauma alert, they will continue to educate staff.

**VII. New Business:**

Statewide Medical Table Top Exercise – Ryan Dehart

Ryan Dehart with San Benito County Public Health reported on the Statewide Medical Table Top exercise in conjunction with the functional exercise to be held on November 19, 2015 at the Veteran’s Memorial building. He explained how the POD (point of distribution) works and problems to correct for the future. He was asked how to get vaccine’s to the schools, he stated that is one area that needs to be worked out. He stated there are lots of concerns with limited resources along with security issues on where the cache is stored, alternate sites may be needed.

Karen O’Connell with Hazel Hawkins Hospital stated she was never notified of this table top drill and has a lot of concerns there will not be enough resource’s or supplies when need, we will be in a lot of trouble here in San Benito County. She is also very concern with the last event with the hot weather-a “Cooling Station” at Bolado Park. She asks - Why at Bolado Park? How will people get out there? OES will look into developing a better plan.

Benchmark Reports

Dr. Ghilarducci stated performance really needs improving. The goal is to continue to work on this mission and have less labor intense in the QI process.

**VIII. Roundtable**

Dixie Zamzow stated she is the only one in EMS right now; let her know if you have any questions. She will still be doing EMT certifications, Paramedic accreditations and all other EMS related duties as usual.

Steve Torres with Cal Fire stated they will stay fully staffed through January 1, 2016 due to the drought conditions.

Dr. Ghilarducci stated he is glad Dixie is here, she is the glue for EMS and Karen O’Connell stated she agreed. Karen also expressed her beliefs in what she sees as a destruction of our EMS community. She is very upset on how the EMS manager was harassed to the point of where she had to retire. Rick Espino expressed what can be done by the EMCC to have a part of or input of recommendations of what we would like to see for the EMS manager position. Being a Commission and an advisory to the Board of Supervisors, no one seems to include us in the important decisions in regards to EMS. The Board member who is on this commission is not here. Rick believes the board does not take us serious and therefore will not include us. The position Marcie had as EMS Manager involves all of the EMCC members. Marcie was the go to person for all EMS related issues, training, policies and procedures.

The big concern now is where EMS is going to land. Rick explained how back in the day it ran well when it was under the direction of OES when it was understood how Office of Emergency Services and Emergency Medical Services worked well together in the county. Rick will be writing a letter to EMCC board representative on everything he stated today. It was asked to have a special meeting if the board responses to Rick’s letter, Rick replied yes we could have a special meeting.

Kevin O’Neill responded with an explanation of how County Administration and County Counsel are trying to figure out some options and changes to the “betterment” of the county EMS system.

Rick Espino stated he appreciated the explanation from Kevin, had someone administrating EMS had explained to this group, it would of minimized the confusions.

**IX. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2016

**X. Meeting was adjourned at 2:27 P.M.**