

SOLANO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COOPERATIVE

Board of Directors

Birgitta Corsello
Solano County Administrator
Chair, SEMSC

John Jansen
Health Care Consumer Rep.
Vice Chair, SEMSC

Joshua Chadwick, Fire Chief
Benicia Fire Department
Fire Chief Representative

Caesar Djavaherian, MD
Emergency Department
NorthBay Medical Center
Physicians' Forum Rep.

Greg Folsom, City Manager
City of Suisun
City Manager Representative

Thea Giboney, MHA
Medical Group Administrator
Kaiser Permanente
Medical Professional Rep.

David Piccinati, MD
Emergency Department
Sutter Solano Med. Center
Medical Professional Rep.

EMS Agency Staff

Bela Matyas, MD, MPH
Public Health Officer

Bryn E. Mumma, MD, MAS
Medical Director

Ted Selby
Agency Administrator

Counsel

Jo Ann Iwasaki Parker
Deputy County Counsel

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) HEALTHCARE SURGE CONTINGENCIES

Various efforts have been made over the years to plan for healthcare surge. In 2006, the California Department of Health Services conducted a California Hospital Surge Capacity Survey. The results of this survey revealed that many hospitals and healthcare systems in California were not ready to receive vast numbers of patients in the event of a pandemic or some other medical or health centered catastrophic event.

In 2007 the California Department of Health Services split into two departments, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Department of Health Care Services. The planning for healthcare surge capacity was continued on by CDPH and a series of manuals and tools were released in 2007 and 2008. These Standards and Guidelines may now prove valuable; especially in areas such as roles and responsibilities, ethical allocation of scarce resources, and billing, coding, and paying during healthcare surge.

As is the case with COVID-19, Statutory requirements and Regulations can be relaxed in an effort to ensure an adversely affected population can and will receive the best care and treatment available under circumstances created by a catastrophic event or disaster. More specifically, Governor Newsom enacted an Executive Order that enables the Director of the Emergency Medical Services Authority to allow Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians to work in stationary environments. Under normal conditions this would fall outside the scope of these classifications. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, however, alternate care sites and health systems will now be able to utilize the skills of these individuals within healthcare settings.

The healthcare landscape has changed for the time being, and the EMS community must be prepared to adapt and provide medical and healthcare support in non-traditional settings. In Solano County, most of the healthcare surge capacity is planned within the existing healthcare system infrastructure. Bed capacities on hospital campuses will expand significantly into non-traditional, non-patient-care areas, while nurse-to-patient ratios will be reduced.

Because there are so many variables, it's impossible to predict the impact COVID-19 will have on the healthcare provider workforce within Solano County or the State of California, for that matter, making it very difficult to plan for staffing at any given facility. Thus, the EMS workforce may be called upon to support functions in healthcare facilities where they wouldn't provide patient care under normal circumstances. Thank you for your willingness to serve the residents of Solano County. It is truly appreciated!