



# County of Santa Cruz

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069

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JANET K. BEAUTZ  
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SECOND DISTRICT

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TONY CAMPOS  
FOURTH DISTRICT

MARK W. STONE  
FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 1/24/06

January 13, 2006

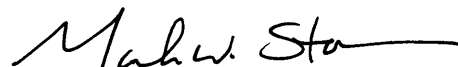
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
County of Santa Cruz  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMISSION

Dear Members of the Board:

Attached is the 2005 Annual Report of the Emergency Medical Care Commission. I recommend that the Board accept and file this report and direct the Chairman to thank the members of the Commission for their efforts on behalf of the County.

Sincerely,

  
MARK-W. STONE, Chair  
Board of Supervisors

MWS:ted

cc: Emergency Medical Care Commission

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# County of Santa Cruz

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY

POST OFFICE BOX 962, 1080 EMELINE AVENUE SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-0962  
 (831) 454-4120 FAX: (831) 4544272 TDD: (831) 4644123

EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
SERVICES PROGRAM

## SANTA CRUZ COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMISSION

January 12, 2006

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors  
 County of Santa Cruz  
 701 Ocean St.  
 Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Members of the Board:

RE: Emergency Medical Care Commission Annual Report – 2005

Attached to this cover letter is the 2005 Annual Report from the Emergency Medical Care Commission. It has been an active year for the Commission, which continues to help establish the direction for EMS.

On behalf of all the Commission members, I would like to express our appreciation to the Board of Supervisors for the opportunity we share in providing input and oversight of the County's Emergency Medical Services system.

Sincerely,

Terry **Lapid**, MD, Chair  
 Emergency Medical Care Commission

Cc: Rama Khalsa, HSA Administrator  
 EMCC Correspondence file

Attachment

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMISSION

### ANNUAL REPORT

2005

#### **Role of the Commission**

The role of the Emergency Medical Care Commission (EMCC) is to act in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors and the County Health Officer on all matters relating to emergency medical services, to review the EMS related activities in the County, to provide residents of the County an opportunity to participate in the making of policy for the emergency medical services system, and to report the Commission observations and recommendations to the designated regulatory bodies.

#### **Meeting Dates, Times and Locations**

During calendar year 2005, the Commission meetings were held monthly at 8:30 a.m. on the second Wednesday of the month. The meeting location alternates between Dominican Santa Cruz Hospital, Watsonville Community Hospital, and the Aptos/La Selva Fire Department.

#### **Commission Structure**

There was a change to the membership of the Commission during 2005. Robyn McIntyre filled the consumer representative position.

#### **Advisor Appointees**

First District:	Rayette Andrews, RN, Dominican Hospital
Second District:	Ira Lubell, MD, Medical Director, Santa Clara Valley Medical Center
Third District:	Jeanette Applegate
Fourth District:	Gary Smith
Fifth District:	Lisa Angell, RN, Watsonville Community Hospital

#### **Advisor Appointees**

Representing: Hospitals	Carol Adams, VP, Dominican Hospital Kaylor Shemberger, CEO Watsonville Hospital
Ambulance Service:	David Zenker, AMRW
County Medical Society:	Terry Lapid, MD, Medical Director, Dominican ED
County Fire Chiefs Association:	Ron Prince, Chief, Santa Cruz Fire Department
Law Enforcement Chiefs Association:	Christina Manriquez, CHP
Consumers:	Robyn McIntyre
Field Care:	Jason Hajduk

**County Support Staff**

David McNutt, MD, County Health Officer (until March, 2005)  
 Poki Namkung, MD, County Health Officer (starting May, 2005)  
 Bob Kennedy, EMS Administrator  
 Celia Barry, EMS Manager  
 Kent Benedict, MD, EMS Medical Director  
 Ruth Shugart, TCIII  
 Beth Landes, Data Systems Analyst

**Attendance**

See Attachment

**2005 INITIATIVES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS****Accomplishments for the Year 2005****I. Trauma Care**

The Commission closely monitored the impact on trauma care by the closure of San Jose Medical Center. Santa Cruz County trauma patients continued to receive care during the transition period when only two trauma centers were open in Santa Clara County. Ultimately the third trauma center, Regional Medical Center, was approved and began to receive patients.

An issue related to trauma care, and of great interest to the Commission, is the transportation of Santa Cruz County major trauma victims by helicopter. Major trauma victims require advanced medical care as quickly as possible to increase their chances of survival. Helicopter transportation is significantly faster than ground transportation, but it is not always available due to several factors. Weather conditions can prohibit the safe operation of a helicopter.

The Commission had determined that the ability to fly with "instrument flight rules" was a priority for helicopter pilots in the northern part of Santa Cruz County and the helipad at Dominican Hospital. This capability must receive Federal Aviation Authority approval and requires the GPS mapping of a route together with the completed application. The EMS office requested that grant funds be directed to this purpose and the Board of Supervisors approved of an agreement between Dominican Hospital and the Health Services Agency for the project. The Commission continues to be apprised of progress made on this project.

**2. Medi-Care Reimbursement Rates**

The Commission continued to actively support increasing the Medi-Care reimbursement rates for Santa Cruz County. On behalf of the Commission, the Chair wrote a letter to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to comment on the inequity of reimbursement rates. Fewer physicians are accepting patients with Medi-Care and physicians are also choosing to leave the county to practice where rates are higher or the cost of housing is lower. Further, some insurers use Medi-Care rates as the basis for setting their own. The Commission will continue to monitor and support efforts to improve the reimbursement rate.

### **3. “Basic Life Support” Training For Fire Agencies**

Additional training opportunities for the volunteer fire agencies began in 2005. Funds for the project were dedicated by the Commission and awarded to the Emergency Medical Services Integration Authority (EMSIA).

### **4. Legislative Advocacy**

The Commission continued to request monthly reports of EMS-related legislative activity. Adequate funding of local emergency medical services is a high priority of the Commissioners who are concerned with the availability and quality of services in Santa Cruz County.

### **5. Local Cardiac Care Research Project**

In November 2003, a 5-year grant funded by the National Institutes of Health was awarded to UCSF to determine if cardiac care could be improved by the use of newer technology by field medics. Santa Cruz County is the location of the “ST Smart” project. The Commission receives regular reports by the study’s directors.

### **6. Provision of Local Emergency Medical Services**

The Commission receives monthly updates of compliance with the ambulance contract. The Commission has also received updates regarding the impact of changes in the provision of ambulance services in Monterey County. Quarterly the Commission discusses the number of hours the hospitals are on restricted status and the impact on care. The hospitals continue to examine when and for what reasons, their emergency departments limit patient transports to their facilities.

### **7. Disaster Preparedness/Response**

The Commission has been very actively participating in discussions of local disaster preparedness. The Commission has had presentations from the Public Health Department regarding a potential pandemic flu and general Public Health preparedness efforts.

## **Standi \_\_\_\_\_**

### **1. Public Information and Education**

The PI&E Committee continues to examine how to improve bystander cardiac care and stroke recognition in the community. The Committee held several meetings during the year and developed a plan to raise awareness in the community about the signs and symptoms of cardiac and stroke events. The plan also calls for increased placement and use of public access automated external defibrillators. Grant applications for the project were submitted to two funders before being successful. The project will begin in 2006.

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMISSION ATTENDANCE ROSTER 2006**  
(No meeting in July)

**COMMISSIONERS      JAN   FEB   MAR   APR   MAY   JUNE   JULY   AUG   SEPT   OCT   NOV   DEC**

COMMISSIONERS	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
CAROL ADAMS	X	X	A	X	X	X		A	A	X	A	A
RAYETTE ANDREWS	A	X	X	X	X	X		A	X	X	A	X
LISA ANGELL	X	X	A	X	A	X		A	X	X	X	X
JEANETTE APPLGATE	X	X	X	X	X	A		X	X	X	A	A
ROBYN MCINTYRE			X*	X	X	X		X	A	X	X	X
JASON HAJDUK	A	A	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
TERRY LAPID	X	A	X	X	X	A		A	X	X	X	X
IRA LUBELL	A	X	X	**	**	X		X	A	X	X	X
CHRISTINA MANRIQUEZ	A	A	X	X	X	X		A	X	A	A	A
RON PRINCE	X	A	X	X	X	A		X	X	X	X	X
KAYLOR SEMBERGER	A	X	X	A	X	X		A	A	A	X	A
GARY SMITH	X	X	A	X	X	X		X	A	X	X	A
DAVID ZENKER	X	X	A	X	X	X		X	X	A	X	X

X = PRESENT

A = ABSENT

R = RESIGNED

\* = FIRST MEETING AS COMMISSIONER

\*\* = ATTENDED MEETING AS INTERIM HEALTH OFFICER