



# Sonoma County Emergency Medical Care Council



*Jeff Schach, Chairperson*  
*Sean Sullivan, Vice Chairperson*

## Annual Report

*January 2024 – April 2025*

### Prepared by:

Jeff Schach, Chair

Sean Sullivan, Vice Chair

### Overview

The Sonoma County Emergency Medical Care Council (EMCC), was created under the authority of Health and Safety Code Section 1797.270. Membership is established and appointed by the Boards of Supervisor and through voting according to established by-laws. The primary responsibility of EMCC is to act in an advisory capacity to the EMS Agency and the Board of Supervisors. The committees focus on review of ambulance operations, dispatch, trauma system development, CPR/First Aid training for the public and training and education issues for field personnel. Sub-committees operating under the authority of the EMCC are used to review specific areas of the EMS system operation. Between January 2024 and April 2025, the EMCC met regularly to address critical issues related to prehospital care, system compliance, coordination among stakeholders, and advancement of public health and safety initiatives.

### Committee Structure and Membership

The EMCC is composed of representatives from hospitals, EMS providers, law enforcement, fire agencies, public health, education, and community partners. Meetings consistently achieved quorum and included broad participation from key stakeholders. The Chair and Vice Chair, supported by active subcommittees and working groups, ensured continuity, engagement, and focused discussions on emerging challenges.

**Bob Norrbom**, District 1 Rep., **Fred Seydel**, District 2 Rep., **Jeff Snow**, District 3 Rep., **Tim Abuodara**, District 4 Rep., **Steve Herzberg**, District 5 Rep., **Steve Suter**, County at Large Rep., **Eric Polan**, County at Large Rep., **Mark LaGrave**, Hospital Provider – ED Physician Rep., **Erin Olson**, Hospital Provider – ED Nurse Rep., **David Bynum**, Ambulance Provider – Franchise Rep., **Sean Sullivan** – Committee Vice Chair, Ambulance Provider – Other provider Rep., **Evonne Stevens**, REDCOM Dispatch Rep., **Samuel Crenshaw**, EMS Personnel (Paramedic Association) Rep., **Marcus Bond**, EMS Personnel (Paramedic Association) Rep., **Stephen Akre**, First Responder Agencies (SCFCA) Rep., **Jeff Schach** – Committee Chair, First Responder Agencies (SCFCA) Rep., **Greg Piccinini**, Sonoma County Law Enforcement Rep., **Art Hsieh**, Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) Rep.,

### Timeline of Meetings and Key Highlights

Date	Key Topics
Jan 22, 2024	Tiered response updates; community paramedicine; EMS agency funding needs
Apr 22, 2024	Psychiatric ED analysis; EMS ordinance discussion; EMS plan & preparedness
Jul 22, 2024	Accreditation workgroup formed; EMS plan; CARES data introduced
Oct 28, 2024	EMS plan and fiscal analysis; EOA compliance; destination protocols
Jan 27, 2025	EOA updates; election of ED RN seat; EMS fee study and public health updates
Apr 28, 2025	CSU coordination; LEMSA plan approved; destination and compliance discussions

## Sonoma County Emergency Medical Care Council

Meetings were hosted in-person at 1450 Neotomas Ave, Santa Rosa, with virtual access provided via posted recordings. Each session featured agency reports, subcommittee updates, and membership roundtables to ensure open communication across all sectors of the EMS system.

---

### Key Initiatives and Accomplishments

#### 1. Tiered Response Oversight and Optimization

The Tiered Response Subcommittee remained active throughout the year, providing regular updates on the implementation and performance of tiered dispatch protocols. Members discussed appropriate response levels, clinical outcomes, and potential changes to improve resource utilization without compromising patient care.

#### 2. Appropriate Destination and CSU Coordination

An “Appropriate Destinations” workgroup was formed to examine patient transport destinations—particularly for behavioral health and sobering center transfers. Coordination with the County’s Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU), Santa Rosa Behavioral Health, local hospitals, pre-hospital mental health providers and law enforcement was a recurring theme, as members sought more efficient routing protocols that matched patient needs with facility capabilities. The goal is to reduce the significant impact boarding of mental health patients has on our local hospital’s emergency departments.

#### 3. EMS System Planning and Fiscal Analysis

The committee received and reviewed the 2024 EMS Plan and participated in fiscal and fee study discussions. CVEMSA provided updates on funding challenges, staffing needs, and regional coordination efforts. EMCC provided feedback to inform system sustainability and equitable access.

#### 4. Emergency and Public Health Preparedness

In light of continuing public health priorities, the committee received updates on mask compliance, MRSE response plans, and general preparedness efforts. These discussions reflected the committee's commitment to integrating EMS response with broader public health strategies.

#### 5. Compliance Monitoring and EOA Oversight

The Compliance Committee reported on adherence to Exclusive Operating Area (EOA) standards, reviewing response times, documentation, and performance metrics. EMCC was instrumental in recommending improvements to transparency and operational accountability.

#### 6. Policy Review and Provider Engagement

Regular policy updates were provided by CVEMSA, including training mandates (e.g., Handtevy), CARES registry participation, and standing orders. EMS providers and training programs, including SRJC and CLSD, remained engaged in workforce development and quality improvement.

---

### Ongoing Partnerships and Reports

The committee benefited from standing updates provided by:

- **Save Lives Sonoma:** Ongoing work in community CPR, AED deployment, and public engagement.
  - **REDCOM:** Communications and dispatch coordination updates.
  - **Fire Chiefs Association & Law Enforcement Agencies:** Field-level updates on interoperability and training.
  - **Hospital Systems & Ambulance Providers:** Operational reports and system-level feedback.
  - **Board of Supervisors Liaisons:** Ensured alignment with county goals and legislative initiatives.
- 

### Strategic Priorities Moving Forward

As we continue into 2025, the EMCC is prioritizing:

- Strengthening behavioral health transport protocols and coordination with CSU and Santa Rosa Behavioral Health.
- Supporting the implementation of EMS scope-of-practice changes at the state level.
- Evaluating CARES data for cardiac arrest outcomes and system benchmarking.
- Exploring EMS system redesign options in response to fiscal pressures and equity needs.

## **Sonoma County Emergency Medical Care Council**

- Continuing robust quality assurance and compliance review across all EOAs.
- 

### **Conclusion**

The Sonoma County EMCC remains a vital forum for cross-sector collaboration in emergency medical care. The committee's accomplishments over the past year reflect a deep commitment to patient-centered care, accountability, and innovation. We are proud of the progress made and remain dedicated to guiding system improvements in partnership with the community we serve. Strong emergency medical services are dependent on collaboration of all stakeholders and providers. This committee is a model example of the essential need to provide a community with the best system and care possible.