



# San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

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## *East San Gabriel Valley Trauma Care Center Ad Hoc Committee Draft Meeting Minutes*

**DATE:** Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
**TIME:** 1:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** West Covina City Hall

1. Preliminary Business
2. Call to Order at 1:05 pm
3. Introductions  
Present  
Kevin Stapleton, Covina  
Stephen Atchley, Pomona  
Freddie Rodriguez, Pomona  
Blanca Figueroa, South El Monte  
Roger Hernandez, West Covina  
Erica Santos, Supervisorial District #1  
Cathy Chidester, Los Angeles County Health Services  
Chris Aldworth, Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center  
Christy Preston, EMS Trauma Manager  
Arreola Guillermo, La Puente  
Jim Lott, Hospital Assn. of Southern California  
Jim Rudroff, West Covina  
John Talmos, Los Angeles County Health Service  
Elna Foulkce, Citrus Valley Health Partners  
Amy Luftig Viste, Off. Of Supv. Molina  
Nicholas T. Conway, Executive Director  
Nathaniel Meek, SGVCOG Staff
4. Public Communications  
There were no public communications.
5. Discussion Items
  - 5.1. Presentation from the LA County Department of Health Services regarding patient transportation

J. Telmos from the LA County Department of Health Services (LADHS) presented the most up to date information on patient transportation times in the San Gabriel Valley. Patient to hospital transport time is under 20 minutes and the representatives from LADHS expressed confidence that this was precisely the goal of the emergency medical services in the region. C. Preston from LADHS pointed out that while the progress made on improving patient transport times has been good, that patient transport services continue to be monitored to ensure that services remain stable.

C. Chidester from LADHS then led a discussion regarding the feasibility and challenges of creating a Level 1 Trauma Care facility in the East San Gabriel Valley. She noted the

American College of Surgeons must approve the creation of such a facility, and criteria that must be met include a minimum number of trauma care patients (1,200) and a certain level of trauma. The East San Gabriel Valley is nowhere near meeting such criteria as a previous study performed by the Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center indicated roughly 1,000 patients meeting such criteria throughout all of Los Angeles County in 2005. Even if the criteria for such a Trauma Care facility were met, there would be the challenge of attracting the appropriate trauma care surgeons and other personnel to the hospital.

- 5.2. Foothill Presbyterian Hospital heliport update  
The Executive Director discussed a letter provided by LA County Sheriff Lee Baca in support of reopening a closed heliport in the San Gabriel Valley. J. Telmos from LADHS noted that the LA County Fire Services has written a similar letter in support of reopening the heliport. Mr. Telmos further noted that while it has been used as a rendezvous point in the past, its present closure is not perceived as having a critical impact on patient transport services to citizens in the San Gabriel Valley.
- 5.3. Discussion with the Hospital Association of Southern California regarding emergency room capacity and primary care services in the East San Gabriel Valley  
A discussion was held concerning emergency room capacity and primary care access in the East San Gabriel Valley. The Executive Director presented up to date information illustrating the exact number of emergency room (ER) beds available at hospitals throughout the San Gabriel Valley and West San Bernardino County. B. Figueroa requested that in addition to the information provided that staff research the number of ER beds being used in halls throughout these hospitals as well. C. Preston from LADHS noted that getting such figures would be difficult as hospitals do not keep track of such figures, and the use of hallway beds varies on an hourly basis.  
  
J. Lott from the Hospital Association of Southern California discussed the need for the region to come up with a strategy to deal with the misuse of emergency room facilities as primary care centers for patients with non-emergency needs. A discussion was held about what the future direction of the Committee should be and if it should include the monitoring of emergency care and primary care services in addition to trauma care services.
- 5.4. Supervisor Molina's Neighborhood Clinics Plan  
A. Viste from Supervisor Molina's office discussed the \$45 million dollar Neighborhood Clinics Plan. The Plan will provide funding for new clinics and/or clinic upgrades in high need/low resource areas. Applicants must demonstrate that any product(s) of such funding will be sustained after the funding expires. Community clinics must apply for funds by June 1, 2009. Executive Director said that staff would be in contact with Supervisor Molina's office and ensure that application information was disseminated accordingly.
6. Items for Future Meetings
  - Update on hospital diversion times from LADHS
  - Update on cost of indigent patients from LADHS
  - Update on map of clinics in LA County from LADHS
  - Update on transport time per Trauma Center from LADHS
7. Set next meeting date  
The next meeting is scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of June, June 17<sup>th</sup>.
8. Adjournment  
Meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.