COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

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Purpose

To designate a local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agency responsible for development and oversight of EMS within the County of San Diego (County).

Background

~~Before January 1, 1981, the Board of Supervisors had not adopted a general policy concerning the County's role and responsibility for planning, implementing, or evaluating a regional EMS system. However, the Board did provide funding for specific components of the EMS system, as well as the staff necessary to provide system development and coordination.~~ On January 1, 1981, Senate Bill 125 (Sections 1797-1799 of the Health and Safety Code) authorized counties to plan implement, and evaluate an EMS system. Each county developing such a system must designate a L~~l~~ocal EMS A~~a~~gency, which is responsible for regional oversight and the approval of local Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Paramedic training programs, accrediting/reaccrediting Paramedics, certifying/ recertifying EMTs, and authorizing the Mobile Intensive Care Nurses (MICNs). Under this authority, the County designates a Local EMS Agency to be ~~is~~ responsible for planning and regulating the regional EMS system ~~and designating a local EMS agency~~.

Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that:

1. ~~County~~ The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Office is designated as the Local EMS Agency ~~local Emergency Medical Services agency~~ (LEMSA), pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 1791.200.

2. The LEMSA shall plan, implement, and evaluate the County's EMS System, be responsible for ~~the~~ developingment and overseeingsight ~~of any~~ operational policies, procedures, and protocols and provide ~~the provision of~~ any staff needed to coordinate the program.

3. The LEMSA shall facilitate access to prehospital providers of a County-operated ~~County shall own, operate, maintain, and upgrade a~~ regional emergency medical services communications system ~~for emergency medical services,~~ and establish standards for communications system its equipment and usage ~~the use of that equipment~~.

4. The LEMSA shall propose a ~~reasonable~~ fee schedule to the Board to recover the costs for operations, including but not limited to credentialing EMS providers,

raining entities, designating EMS- and hospital-based programs, and providing resources, management, and monitoring activities ~~of certifying/recertifying Emergency Medical Technicians, authorizing Mobile Intensive Care Nurses, and accrediting/reaccrediting Paramedics~~.

5. The LEMSA shall use its best efforts to optimize EMS services at all levels under LEMSA purview, by authorizing local optional scope of practice skills programs whenever needed and approved by the EMS Medical Director and the California EMS Authority.

6. The County, through the LEMSA, ~~will~~ designates specialty care programs and care centers, including for critical injuries, cardiac emergencies, strokes, and other hospital-based services. ~~for the treatment of victims of critical illnesses or injury and shall administer through t~~The LEMSA shall administer these ~~a~~ systems to ensure the quality, consistency, and availability of these services.

7. The LEMSA shall focus on patient-centered care to promote high-quality, evidence-based, and equitable EMS and critical care outcomes in San Diego County. ~~Funding of all other components of the EMS system shall be shared by appropriate local, non-County governments and the private sector. When the Board finds that funding within a special district or service area is not equitable or feasible, the County will provide, either directly or through a contract, EMS in such quantity and at a level of quality as is compatible with the availability of funds~~.

8. The LEMSA shall make every effort to operate and maintain a robust and reliable EMS delivery system, which includes thorough data collection to enhance the quality of care for all San Diego County residents and visitors. The LEMSA shall take all necessary steps to ensure this data is properly managed.

9. The LEMSA shall facilitate public feedback in establishing policies and medical direction that ensure a comprehensive EMS delivery system for all residents and visitors in San Diego County.

10. The LEMSA, using its authority established in state law, may create one or more exclusive operating areas in the development of the local EMS service plan using the competitive process to select the provider or providers of these services. The LEMSA may determine ambulance operating areas that are exempt from this requirement in a manner compliant with state law and regulation.

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11. Funding of all other components of the EMS system shall be shared by appropriate local, non-County governments and the private sector.

Sunset Date
This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-32~~25~~.

Board Action
4-13-82 (7)
12-4-84 (30)
8-16-88 (6)
12-12-89 (49)
3-27-90 (47)
8-3-99 (7)
3-23-04 (4)
5-15-07 (3)
12-09-08 (33)
01/24/12 (10)
11/13/18(17)
6-29-21 (03)

CAO Reference
Public Safety Group