

**County of Santa Clara**  
**Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System**  
Public Health  
Emergency Medical Services




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HHS04 022409

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DATE: February 24, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM:   
Kim Roberts  
SCVHHS - Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Resolution Delegating Authority to Execute Advanced Life Support Provider Agreements

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Adopt Resolution delegating authority to the Public Health Administrator, or designee, to negotiate and execute contracts and contract amendments and take all related actions with ambulance service providers authorizing operation at the Advanced Life Support level in response to non-911 calls for period March 1, 2009 through February 28, 2012, following approval by County Counsel as to form and legality, and approval by the Office of the County Executive. Delegation of authority shall expire on February 28, 2012. (Roll Call Vote)

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There is no impact to the County General Fund as a result of this action. There is no monetary transaction involved with these agreements.

## **CONTRACT HISTORY**

On June 26, 2001, the Board of Supervisors approved an agreement with Priority One Medical Services for non-911 Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance services, and approved a resolution delegating authority to the Executive Director of the Health and Hospital System to execute future agreements, amendments and extensions with ambulance services to provide non-911 ambulance transport services through June 30, 2005. An agreement with a second provider, Westmed Ambulance, was executed on June 1, 2002. A second resolution was adopted by the Board for the same purpose at its October 18, 2005 meeting. The most recent resolution delegating authority expired on June 30, 2008.

Westmed Ambulance and Silicon Valley Ambulance are the only ambulance providers currently permitted to operate at the non-911 ALS level. Priority One Medical Services no longer provides this level of service in Santa Clara County. Other qualified providers, however, may also apply to be permitted to provide these services. American Medical Response (AMR) is permitted to provide 911 and non-911 ALS services in the County under a separate agreement.

## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

The Board of Supervisors adopted an ambulance ordinance in 1993 and designated the Public Health Department's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency as the agency responsible for enforcing the ordinance and issuing ambulance permits.

The requirements to execute agreements with ALS providers are in the California Code of Regulations, Title 22. Specifically, the Santa Clara County Ordinance Code,

Section A18-262, requires that all permitted advanced life support providers have an executed agreement with the County for the purpose of operating Advanced Life Support level in response to non-911 codes. The written agreement specifies the scope of services to be provided by the ambulance provider, and authorizes the ambulance provider to utilize paramedics to deliver those services.

Adoption of the resolution delegating contracting authority to the Public Health Administrator to execute agreements and amendments with permitted ambulance service providers will enable the EMS Agency to execute new agreements with Westmed Ambulance and Silicon Valley Ambulance, and to respond in a timely manner to requests to provide non-911 ALS level service within the County.

## **BACKGROUND**

Non-911 ambulance services are those services used to transfer patients between hospitals, hospitals and skilled nursing facilities, urgent and sub-acute care facilities, etc. It has been identified both locally and statewide that there continues to be a pressing need for Advanced Life Support inter-facility transfer services to meet the transfer needs of those patients who require advanced life support care during transfer, but do not require a nurse. The EMS Agency estimates that there are approximately 10,000 ALS level inter-facility transports per year in Santa Clara County.

Advanced life support care includes cardiac monitoring, medication administration and advanced airway management provided by a paramedic. Due to the added requirements for this level of care, many ambulance service providers do not apply for an ALS permit. At the present time, only two ambulance service providers, Westmed Ambulance and Silicon

Valley Ambulance, are permitted for this level of service under the non-911 agreements. AMR provides both non-911 and 911 ALS services under the Master Agreement for Pre-hospital Emergency Medical Care and Transportation.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

Failure to approve the recommended action may limit EMS Agency's ability to carry out its full scope of ambulance permitting functions in a timely manner.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- Resolution Delegating Authority for ALS Level