

# County of Santa Clara

## Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System

Public Health



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HHS04 062409


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DATE: June 24, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM:   
Kim Roberts  
SCVHHS - Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Emergency Medical Systems Fellowship Program Agreement with Stanford University

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approve delegation of authority to Public Health Administrator, or designee, to negotiate, execute and amend an agreement with Stanford University relating to the Emergency Medical Systems Fellowship program in an amount not to exceed \$35,000 per fiscal year for period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 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 June 30, 2012.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The County's financial support of the Emergency Medical Systems Fellowship program is funded by the EMS Fines and Penalties Trust Fund. The maximum financial obligation of this agreement is \$35,000 per fiscal year. Funding for this program is included in the FY10 recommended budget. All other costs associated with the Fellowship program, estimated at \$95,000 per year, are provided by Stanford University.

## **CONTRACT HISTORY**

At its June 20, 2006 meeting, the Board approved delegation of authority to the Director of Public Health to negotiate and execute the initial agreement and subsequent amendments with Stanford University for the purpose of implementing the Emergency Medical Systems Fellowship Program. The delegation expires on June 30, 2009. The Emergency Medical Systems Fellowship began on August 1, 2006. To date, two physicians have completed the program.

## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

Emergency Medical Systems medical direction is a unique and challenging aspect of medicine. There are only a handful of programs designed to provide physicians with academic training in Emergency Medical Systems, including medical direction, prehospital operations, quality improvement, and related activities essential to a well-functioning EMS system. The collaborative effort between the County and Stanford University offers the opportunity not only to address the critical need for academic education in Emergency Medical Systems, but provides the EMS Agency and local EMS system with much needed prehospital research, clinical investigation and educational resources, and the opportunity to implement innovative advanced care programs.

## **BACKGROUND**

Fellowship programs are designed to provide licensed physicians with an opportunity to increase their knowledge and skills through active participation in unique and specialized areas of medicine, including research, air medical services, and others. These structured academic programs are supervised by qualified experienced physicians and other staff who oversee the academic environment and guide the learning process.

While Emergency Medical Services Medical Direction has been identified as an essential component of EMS system, and is mandated at the local level by state statute (Section 1797.202(a) of the California Health & Safety Code), there are only a handful of programs that provide physicians with necessary training and experience in Emergency Medical Systems to prepare them to fill that role. Nationally, there are 43 Emergency Medical Systems Fellowship programs which provide training to 50 physicians per year. These Fellowship programs provide education and experience including the history of EMS, legislation and legal issues, system design, air medical transport, human resources, system finance, equipment, training, operations management, community education, communications, disaster management, prevention, medical direction and/or research. Of those 43 programs, five are in the Western United States, and the only other program in California is located at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

## **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

Failure to approve the recommended action may impact EMS Agency's ability to continue to participate in the Emergency Medical Systems Fellowship program with Stanford University.