

County of Santa Clara

Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System

Public Health



HHS02 060909


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DATE: June 9, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: 
Kim Roberts
SCVHHS - Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Resolution Delegating Authority to Execute Agreements for Air Ambulance Services

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt Resolution delegating authority to the Public Health Administrator, or designee, to negotiate and execute contracts and contract amendments with air ambulance providers for air ambulance services 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. (Roll Call Vote)

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

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

CONTRACT HISTORY

On April 20, 2004, the Board of Supervisors approved three air ambulance provider agreements - California Shock Trauma Air Rescue (CalSTAR), Stanford Hospital and Clinic - Lifeflight, and Reach Air Medical Services. Those agreements became effective July 1, 2003 and expired June 30, 2006.

On April 11, 2006, the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution delegating authority to Director of Public Health, or designee, to negotiate, execute and amend agreements with air ambulance providers for the purposes of classifying aircraft and operating an air ambulance service in Santa Clara County for period April 11, 2006 through June 30, 2009. The three agreements executed by this authority are with Stanford Lifeflight, Reach Air Medical Services and CalSTAR. All three agreements expire on June 30, 2009.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The purpose of the agreements between the County and air ambulance providers is to comply with state regulations and to ensure that air ambulance and rescue aircraft providers have been appropriately classified and integrated into the local Emergency Medical Services System.

Both EMS Agency policies and existing County ordinance and regulations address air ambulance and rescue aircraft utilization within the County in general, but do not meet the requirement for the County to have agreements with air ambulance providers specifying the conditions to routinely serve the jurisdiction, including availability for utilization within the 911 System and/or for disaster response, which may be unique to each air ambulance provider due to aircraft and crew configuration, capabilities, etc.

Approval of the delegation of authority will enable the EMS Agency to continue to obtain and maintain commitment from air ambulance providers to serve the local jurisdiction, and to amend the agreements as needed to recognize operational changes and advances in prehospital care in a timely manner.

BACKGROUND

The County has been permitting air ambulance providers since 1990. The ambulance permitting process allows an air ambulance provider to operate in our jurisdiction, but does not provide for integration of their services into the day-to-day operations of the EMS system. The California Code of Regulations, Section 100300 requires that air ambulance providers enter into agreements with their permitting agency. Air ambulance provider agreements allow for the routine use of air ambulances within the 911 system by specifying role and responsibilities as a local provider of air ambulance services.

Section A18-262 of the County of Santa Clara Ordinance Code requires that a provider of emergency medical transportation obtain a permit from the County of Santa Clara prior to engaging in such activities within the County. California Code of Regulations Section 100300 requires that the County, acting as the Local Emergency Medical Services Agency (LEMSA), develop written agreements with all air ambulance and rescue aircraft providers that operate within the County, specifying conditions of operation.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Failure to approve the recommended action may limit the EMS Agency's ability to carry out its responsibilities under Section 100300 of the California Code of Regulation.

ATTACHMENTS

- Air Ambulance Services Resolution