



HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY
ADMINISTRATION

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

P.O. BOX 962, 1080 EMELINE AVENUE
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061

(408) 454-4066 FAX: (408) 454-4770
TDD: (408) 454-4123

October 26, 1998

AGENDA: November 10, 1998

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: DEFERRAL ON REPORT BACK CONCERNING FIRE SERVICE INTEGRATION INTO THE EMS SYSTEM, AND REPORT ON HOSPITAL/AMBULANCE ISSUES

Dear Board Members:

On December 16, 1997, your Board approved a five-year agreement with American Medical Response (AMR) for the provision of County-wide ambulance services. As part of your final actions on the contract, HSA was directed to report on progress made in integrating fire services into the EMS system, and to report on discussions with local hospitals to understand hospital issues and determine if administrative methods exist for resolving those issues.

Fire Services Integration

The provision of engine-based advanced life support services has been of interest to local fire agencies for a number of years. In order to coordinate activities related to engine-based paramedic services, local fire services formed a joint powers authority known as the Emergency Medical Services Integration Authority (EMSIA). It is the long-term desire of the EMSIA to integrate fire-based paramedic services with those provided by the ambulance service provider. The EMSIA, in conjunction with the Central Fire Protection District (CFPD), has strongly supported Central's recent proposal to provide engine-based paramedic services out of one station and expects other fire districts to request approval to provide paramedic services in the future.

HSA staff have met with the Board of Directors and/or Executive Committee of the EMSIA several times during and subsequent to the development of the current ambulance services provider contract. Most recently, a meeting was held on October 22, 1998, to discuss the issue of integration of fire services into the County-wide EMS system. At that meeting, HSA staff and the EMSIA Executive Committee agreed and committed to working together over the next two months to develop a report to your Board for your agenda on January 12, 1999.

Hospital Issues

Subsequent to the signing of the current ambulance provider contract, HSA staff have met with local hospitals on two different issues. The first issue came as a result of a request by Watsonville Community Hospital to move the demarcation point which directs ambulances to proceed north or south along the Highway 1 corridor. The request came as a result of Watsonville Community Hospital's relocation more approximate to Highway 1. That issue was studied by HSA and the Ambulance Contract Compliance Commission, and resulted in no change in the demarcation point.

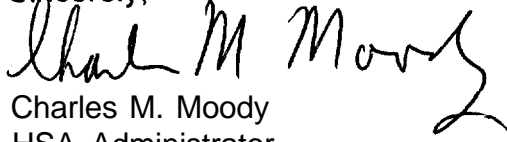
The second issue resulted from Sutter Maternity and Surgical Center's request to contract with an ambulance provider to transport non-emergent (Basic Life Support) patients from facility to facility. It is the opinion of County Counsel that the County's existing ambulance services ordinance does not regulate Basic Life Support transportation services within Santa Cruz County. As a result of that determination, **Sutter** Maternity and Surgical Center developed a transport agreement which is outside of the regulatory control of the County. The issue of regulation of basic life support services is currently under review by HSA staff, the Emergency Medical Care Commission, and the Ambulance Contract Compliance Commission and may be brought back to your Board at some future date.

It is therefore, RECOMMENDED, that your Board:

1. Defer consideration of the report regarding fire services integration into the EMS system to January 12, 1999; and

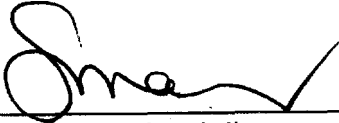
2. Accept and file the report on hospital issues.

Sincerely,



Charles M. Moody
HSA Administrator

RECOMMENDED:



Susan A. Mauriello
County Administrative Officer

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cc: **CAO**
Auditor-Controller
County Counsel
Emergency Medical Services
Emergency Medical Services Integration Authority
Emergency Medical Care Commission
Ambulance Contract Compliance Commission
HSA Administration
Dominican Santa Cruz Hospital
Watsonville Community Hospital
Sutter Maternity & Surgery Center