

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY
ADMINISTRATION

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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May 27, 1999

AGENDA: June 8, 1999

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95061

Subject: **Ambulance Contract Compliance Commission and Related Matters**

Dear Board Members:

On April 13, 1999 your Board approved the dissolution of the Ambulance Contract Compliance Commission effective June 30, 1999 and directed the HSA Administrator and County Counsel to recommend Ordinance changes necessary to achieve this outcome. Your Board further directed the HSA Administrator, County Counsel and the Auditor-Controller to identify various issues requiring attention as a result of Commission dissolution including any interim steps to be taken prior to July 1. Finally, your Board directed the HSA Administrator to make recommendations for ongoing ambulance administrative oversight including possible roles and responsibilities for the Emergency Medical Care Commission, other County Departments and other public agencies involved in EMS matters.

Counsel has determined that Commission dissolution can occur by your Board adopting an Ordinance repealing Chapter 2.50 of the County Code which governs Commission activity. A recommendation initiating that action is included with this letter.

The agreement between the County and American Medical Response West (AMR), which is for a five year period beginning December, 1997 and concluding November 30, 2002, contains a number of references to the Ambulance Contract Compliance Commission. Many of these references involve circumstances in which the Commission shares with the HSA Administrator the responsibility to review certain Ambulance performance data.

Other references in the agreement call for the HSA Administrator to share with and accept comment from the Commission on other ambulance matters. Discussions with AMR representatives have indicated that AMR is amenable to modifying the contract in a

manner which either deletes Commission action and/or substitutes another method to assure that data and other contract oversight occurs.

To fulfill the requirements for contract oversight, the HSA Administrator will establish an HSA level Contract Compliance Technical Advisory Group (TAG). This group will be composed of the following persons:

- The HSA Administrator or the County Health Officer
- Three additional HSA representatives from among representatives of the EMS Agency, Public Health Division, MediCruz, or Administrative Division
- The County Director of Emergency Services
- The Director of the Santa Cruz Consolidated Emergency Communications Center
- One additional representative appointed by the Santa Cruz Consolidated Emergency Communications Center Director

The TAG will carry out oversight duties as specified in the contract between the County and AMR and will carry out any additional responsibilities in Ambulance contract matters as may be delegated by the HSA Administrator.

To assure citizen and consumer involvement with Ambulance oversight, the HSA Administrator will report at least quarterly to the Emergency Medical Care Commission (EMCC) on ambulance performance and related matters. The Administrator also will prepare an annual report, to be presented to your Board at your first meeting in March, on the performance of the ambulance contractor for the previous contract year (which ends on November 30th of each year).

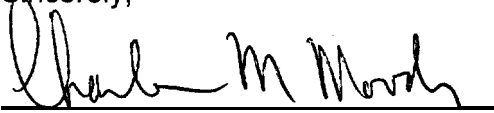
By adopting the dissolution Ordinance, directing staff to pursue the contract reference changes noted above, and establishing an HSA level Technical Advisory Group, essential contract monitoring will continue and the cessation of the Ambulance Contract Compliance Commission will be final.

With these considerations, it is therefore RECOMMENDED that your Board:

1. Approve in concept the attached Ordinance repealing Chapter 2.50 of the Santa Cruz County Code; and
2. Direct the HSA Administrator and County Counsel to pursue discussions to result in the deletion of references to the Ambulance Contract Compliance Commission in the existing agreement for the provision of Ambulance Services between the County and American Medical Response West and return to this Board with a proposed modified agreement; and
3. Direct the HSA Administrator to report at least quarterly to the Emergency Medical Care Commission on Ambulance performance and related matters; and

4. Direct the HSA Administrator to report annually to the Board of Supervisors at their ⁹¹³ first meeting in March on the performance of the ambulance contractor for the previous contract year ending on November 30.

Sincerely,



Charles M. Moody
HSA Administrator

RECOMMENDED:



Susan A. Mauriello
County Administrative Officer

cc: County Administrative Office
Auditor-Controller
County Counsel
HSA Administration
Emergency Medical Care Commission

ORDINANCE NO. ____

**ORDINANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 2.50 OF THE
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CODE RELATING TO THE
AMBULANCE CONTRACT COMPLIANCE COMMISSION**

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz ordains as follows:

SECTION I

Chapter 2.50 of the Santa Cruz County Code as adopted by Ordinance No. 4484 is hereby repealed.

SECTION II

This ordinance shall take effect on the 3 1st day after the date of final passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 1999, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS
NOES: SUPERVISORS
ABSENT: SUPERVISORS
ABSTAIN: SUPERVISORS

Chairperson of the
Board of Supervisors

Attest: _____
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Assistant County Counsel