



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY
ADMINISTRATION

October 17, 2001

Agenda: November 6, 2001

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: Annual Report on Integration of Fire Services into the County EMS System

Dear Members of the Board:

On November 20, 2000, the Health Services Agency (HSA) reported on the status of fire services integration into the County's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system. The report summarized the recent history of the involvement of fire agencies in EMS, discussed the working relationship between HSA and the Emergency Medical Services Integration Authority (EMSIA), which is a joint powers authority of the various County fire districts and agencies, reviewed various aspects of EMS service delivery, and scheduled an annual report to your Board for November 2001.

HSA has presented material to your Board about EMS planning, service delivery and fire services integration throughout the year. A recent EMS Forum held October 10, 2001 reviewed future trends in EMS, stakeholder perspectives on challenges for the future, and comments from participants about what the system does well and what we could do better or differently. EMS planning is ongoing to develop a Request for Proposal for ambulance transport services to commence at the end of the current American Medical Response contract which will expire August 31, 2003. Aptos La Selva Fire District, Central Fire Protection District, and City of Santa Cruz Fire Department are all providing engine-based paramedic services. Watsonville Fire Department has presented a proposal to deliver engine-based paramedic services. Quality assurance mechanisms and programs to assure that the public health and safety are protected are in place. Fire Departments providing advanced life support services have been an asset to the total EMS system and the citizens at large. HSA has encountered no problems to report to your Board at this time.

HSA continues to be optimistic about finding positive ways for the County fire services and private ambulance providers to partner in the delivery of EMS services to the benefit of the citizens who require Advanced Life Support paramedic services. HSA will

continue to report to your Board periodically when issues arise in the matter of fire services integration, and, as directed by your Board, will provide an annual report on Fire Integration issues.

It is, therefore, RECOMMENDED that your Board:

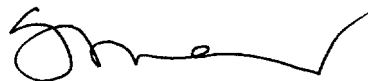
Accept and file this report regarding integration of fire services into the County EMS system.

Sincerely,



Rama Khalsa, Ph.D.
Health Services Administrator

RECOMMENDED



Susan A. Mauriello
County Administrative Officer

cc: County Administrative Office
County Counsel
HSA Administration