

SUBJECT: ALTERNATE PARAMEDIC SERVICE PROVIDER
APPLICATION/DESIGNATION

Date: 7/01/2010

- I. **Authority:** Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.201, 1797.204, 1797.218, and 1797.224.
- II. **Purpose:** To encourage the establishment of new advanced life support (ALS) services in low population density areas that have demonstrated hardship in establishing services at the community standard of care.
- III. **Definitions:**
 - A. Alternate Advanced Life Support (ALS): ALS provided in low population density areas utilizing a Paramedic staffing option other than the current community standard in San Diego County.
 - B. Community Standard: two (2) -paramedics on each advanced life support unit with twenty-four (24) hour per day coverage and a response time of ten (10) minutes or less (urban) and fifteen (15) minutes or less (rural) 90% of the time.
 - C. Low population density area: service area wherein a population does not exceed 750 residents per square mile and is not less than 100 residents per square mile, or where sufficient non-resident or other usage can be demonstrated to justify the service.
 - D. Hardship is one or more of the following situations:
 1. Financial hardship such that service at the community standard of care is impossible.
 2. A local system or organizational hardship such that:
 - a. Service cannot be made generally available throughout the service area within

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established response time guidelines utilizing a community standard service configuration; or

- b. Service cannot be made available through eligible provider at the community standard without compromising other public safety mission requirements; or
- c. No new provider can or will enter the service area and provide service at the community standard.

IV. Procedure:

A. Application Process:

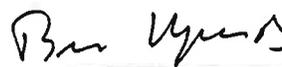
1. Submit a letter of intent to establish ALS services, in writing, to the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, EMS Branch.
2. Conduct a competitive bid process pursuant to Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1797.224, and in accordance with local policies.
3. Following a competitive bid process, submit to the EMS Branch:
 - a. Copy of all proposals or responses received.
 - b. Statement of need of ALS services in defined area.
 - c. Data which supports a claim of hardship in establishing ALS services in accordance with established current community standards.
 - d. Description of alternate ALS model proposed.
 - e. Description of financial viability for alternate program.
 - f. Other special issues unique to the community which may directly or indirectly

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impact the ability to provide ALS services at the community standard of care.

4. Within 90 days of receipt of above documents, the EMS Branch will:
 - a. Review all documents.
 - b. Conduct a community survey (on an as needed basis).
 - c. Make a determination of the need for alternate ALS to the specified community.
 - d. Notify the applicant(s) of the final decision and any recommendations or suggestions for implementation.

B. Designation Process:

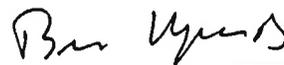
1. To be designated as an alternate Paramedic service provider in San Diego County, a local jurisdiction (a local jurisdiction is the County, a city, water district, fire protection district, or county service area), which has been approved by the County of San Diego to provide alternate ALS services must:
 - a. Comply with California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4.
 - b. Enter into an Agreement with the County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services to perform as an alternate Paramedic service provider agency.
 - c. Comply with all responsibilities of the contractor as outlined in Exhibit A.
2. The County of San Diego, Department of Health, EMS Branch shall review the Agreement with the alternate Paramedic service provider every two (2) years. The

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Agreement may be changed, renewed, canceled, or otherwise modified when necessary according to provisions for such in the Agreement.

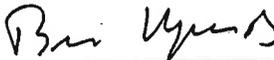
3. The County of San Diego, EMS Branch may deny, suspend, or revoke the approval of an alternate Paramedic service provider agency for failure to comply with applicable policies, procedures, protocols, or regulations in accordance with provisions for such in the Agreement.

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EXHIBIT A

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CONTRACTOR

1. To provide Paramedic Services within the boundaries of its local jurisdiction, and within adjoining areas as specified by Agreements with adjoining Paramedic Service Providers.
2. To participate in the Advanced Life Support (ALS) Program in accordance with Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations, Division 9, Chapter 4.
3. To develop and operate Paramedic Services in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4. The **CONTRACTOR** may subcontract all or a portion of these services. However, the **CONTRACTOR** is responsible for insuring that any and all subcontractors provide services in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4.
4. To maintain and operate at least one fully equipped, supplied and staffed Paramedic Unit seven days a week, twenty-four (24) hours a day, in accordance with the Policies, Procedures and Protocols established by San Diego County.
5. To staff each unit with at least one (1) Paramedic at all times. For the purpose of this Agreement, a Paramedic is an individual certified in the State of California as a Paramedic, and accredited by the County of San Diego Emergency Medical Services Medical Director to operate as a Paramedic in San Diego County, pursuant to Section 1797 et seq. of the Health and Safety Code.
6. To staff each unit with at least one (1) EMT at all times. For the purpose of this Agreement, an EMT is an individual certified in the State of California to operate as an EMT, pursuant to Section 1797 et seq. of the Health and Safety Code.

7. To provide the citizens of the local jurisdiction with information on the 9-1-1 system and where and how to obtain Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training.
8. To ensure that all Paramedic personnel comply with the continuous accreditation requirements of the **COUNTY**.
9. To provide suitable facilities for housing the Paramedic unit(s).
10. To cooperate with the approved Paramedic training programs in providing field internship locations for paramedic interns.
11. To develop mutual aid and/or call-up plans for providing Paramedic Service in an area in the event the ambulance assigned to the area is not operable, or is away from the area for other reasons. Automatic response plans may be developed by the local jurisdiction with concurrence of adjoining Paramedic services.
12. To notify the Chief, Division of Emergency Medical Services, or designee, immediately whenever any condition exists which adversely affects the local jurisdiction's ability to meet the conditions of this Agreement.
13. To appoint an Agency Paramedic Coordinator, to serve as liaison between the Agency, the County, base hospitals, receiving hospitals, BLS provider agencies and public safety agencies operating within the service area.
14. To provide orientation for first responder agencies to advanced life support functions and role.
15. To provide for a planned maximum response time of no more than fifteen (15) minutes in rural areas and no more than ten (10) minutes in urban areas.
16. To participate in local Emergency Medical Service planning activities, including disaster management.

17. To comply with all applicable State statutes and regulations and County standards, policies, procedures and protocols, including a mechanism to assure compliance.
18. To implement and maintain a Quality Assurance program.
19. To take immediate corrective action where there is a failure to meet "Responsibilities of the **CONTRACTOR**".