

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

Subject

Emergency Medical System Management

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Purpose

To define and establish a policy which identifies the role and responsibility of the Board of Supervisors in supporting the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Program for San Diego County.

Background

Before January 1, 1981, the Board of Supervisors had adopted no general policy concerning the County's role and responsibility for planning, implementing or evaluating a Regional Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System. However, the Board did provide funding for specific components of the EMS System, as well as the staff necessary to provide system development and coordination. On January 1, 1981, Senate Bill 125 (Sections 1797-1799 of the Health and Safety Code) established specific County responsibility for planning, implementing and evaluating an EMS System for the County.

The County of San Diego has the responsibility for planning and regulating the EMS System and the authority necessary to carry out that responsibility. In addition to the role of coordinator, the County is charged directly with the responsibility for approving local Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Paramedic training programs, accrediting/reaccrediting Paramedics, certifying/ recertifying EMTs and authorizing the Mobile Intensive Care Nurses (MICN). Funding of all other components of the EMS system is, and should continue to be, shared by appropriate local, non-County governments and the private sector.

This policy supports the County's "*Live Well, San Diego!*" initiative by supporting the provision of quality and efficient care, and improving access to care.

Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that:

1. The County has responsibility for planning, implementing, developing standards and evaluating an EMS System to provide emergency medical services and provide the necessary staff to coordinate these activities.
2. The Health and Human Services Agency is hereby designated the local Emergency Medical Services Agency and shall have the responsibility for developing an emergency medical services program for the County of San Diego, including but not limited to operational policies, procedures and protocols to ensure an effective and efficient EMS system.

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3. The County will own, operate, maintain and upgrade a regional communications system for emergency medical services, establish standards for communications system equipment, and the use of that equipment.
4. The Director of the Health and Human Services Agency, shall review and recommend a reasonable fee schedule to the Board of Supervisors to recover the cost of certifying/recertifying Emergency Medical Technicians, authorizing Mobile Intensive Care Nurses, and accrediting/reaccrediting Paramedics.
5. The County shall use its best efforts to optimize the level of services, by authorizing advanced skill emergency medical service programs to include:
 - a. Public Safety Defibrillation (PS-D), countywide;
 - b. Perilaryngeal Airway Adjuncts, for Emergency Medical Technicians, countywide;
 - c. Alternate Configuration Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic (EMT-P) Ambulance Crews in low population density areas;
 - d. Advanced Life Support (ALS) Air Medical Rescue Services in low population density areas; and
 - e. Advanced EMT.
6. The County will designate specialty care centers for the treatment of victims of critical illnesses or injury and shall administer through the Health and Human Services Agency a system to ensure the quality, consistency and availability of these services.

Sunset Date

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-25.

Board Action

4-13-82 (7)
12-4-84 (30)
8-16-88 (6)
12-12-89 (49)
3-27-90 (47)
8-3-99 (7)
3-23-04 (4)
5-15-07 (3)
12-09-08 (33)
01/24/12 (10)
11/13/18 (17)

CAO Reference

Health and Human Services Agency