

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

10901 GOLD CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 400
RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670
(916) 322-4336 FAX (916) 324-2875



November 14, 2014

Mr. Steve Carroll, EMS Administrator
Ventura County EMS Agency
2220 East Gonzales Road, Suite 130
Oxnard, CA 93036

Dear Mr. Steve Carroll:

This letter is in response to your 2013 Ventura County EMS Plan submission to the EMS Authority.

I. Introduction and Summary:

The EMS Authority has concluded its review of Ventura County's 2013 EMS Plan and is approving the plan as submitted.

II. History and Background:

Historically, we have received EMS Plan documentation from Ventura County for its 1999, 2004, 2005, 2007-2009, 2011, and 2012 plan submissions, and most current, its 2013 plan submission.

Ventura County received its last Five-Year Plan approval for its 2004 plan submission, and its last annual Plan Update approval for its 2012 plan submission. The California Health and Safety (H&S) Code § 1797.254 states:

*"Local EMS agencies shall **annually** (emphasis added) submit an emergency medical services plan for the EMS area to the authority, according to EMS Systems, Standards, and Guidelines established by the authority."*

The EMS Authority is responsible for the review of EMS Plans and for making a determination on the approval or disapproval of the plan, based on compliance with statute and the standards and guidelines established by the EMS Authority consistent with H&S Code § 1797.105(b).

III. Analysis of EMS System Components:

Following are comments related to Ventura County's 2013 EMS Plan. Areas that indicate the plan submitted is concordant and consistent with applicable guidelines or regulations and

H&S Code § 1797.254 and the EMS system components identified in H&S Code § 1797.103 are indicated below:

A. Approved Not Approved

System Organization and Management

1. Table 1 (Minimum Standards/Recommended Guidelines)

- Standard 1.07 is not listed on Table 1 as meeting the recommended guideline, although it is identified on the System Assessment Form. In the next plan submission, please update Table 1 to coincide with the information indicated on the System Assessment Form.
- Standard 6.08 is not listed on Table 1 with a short-range plan, although it is identified on the System Assessment Form. In the next plan submission, please update Table 1 to coincide with the information indicated on the System Assessment Form.
- Standard 6.09 is not listed on Table 1 as meeting the recommended guideline, although it is identified on the System Assessment Form. In the next plan submission, please update Table 1 to coincide with the information indicated on the System Assessment Form.
- Standard 6.11 is not identified on Table 1 as meeting the recommended guideline, although it is identified on the System Assessment Form. Additionally, a short-range plan is identified on Table 1; however, there is no short-range plan identified on the System Assessment Form. In the next plan submission, please update Table 1 to coincide with the information indicated on the System Assessment Form.
- Standard 8.09 does not meet the established minimum standard. In the next plan submission, please select a short- or long-range plan.

B. Staffing/Training

1. Table 3 (Staffing/Training)

- In the next plan submission, please provide a response for every question.

C. Communications

D. Response/Transportation

1. Ambulance Zones

- Please see the attachment on the EMS Authority's determination of the exclusivity of Ventura County's EMS Agency's ambulance zones.

E. Facilities/Critical Care

1. System Assessment Form

- Standard 5.10 does not meet the established minimum standard. The objective and needs are to continue working with local hospitals and prehospital providers to evaluate pediatric care capabilities. Since this is identified as a short-range plan, in the next plan submission, please show that the standard has been met, or explain the progress that has been made in meeting the standard as well as identifying new needs.

2. Table 6 (Facilities/Critical Care)

- The statistics provided for receiving hospitals and base hospitals is inconsistent with the information presented for the facilities in Table 9. In the next plan submission, please ensure the information contained in both tables correspond with one another.

F. Data Collection/System Evaluation

1. System Assessment Form

- Standard 6.08 does not meet the established minimum standard. The objective and needs are to schedule the EMS Advisory Committee to annually evaluate the EMS system and produce an annual report. Since this is identified as a short-range plan, in the next plan submission, please show that the standard has been met, or explain the progress that has been made in meeting the standard as well as identifying new needs.

G. Public Information and Education

H. Disaster Medical Response

1. System Assessment Form

- Standard 8.09 does not meet the established minimum standard and there were no needs and objectives identified. The current status indicates Ventura County does not have resources available to maintain a local DMAT team. In the next plan submission, please show that progress has been made in meeting the standard by identifying the needed resources. Please also establish an objective and assign a timeframe for meeting the objective.

IV. Conclusion:

Based on the information identified, Ventura County may implement areas of the 2013 EMS Plan that have been approved. Pursuant to H&S Code § 1797.105(b):

“After the applicable guidelines or regulations are established by the Authority, a local EMS agency may implement a local plan...unless the Authority determines that the plan does not effectively meet the needs of the persons served and is not consistent with the coordinating activities in the geographical area served, or that the plan is not concordant and consistent with applicable guidelines or regulations, or both the guidelines and regulations established by the Authority.”


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V. Next Steps:

Ventura County's annual EMS Plan Update will be due on November 14, 2015.

If you have any questions regarding the plan review, please contact Ms. Lisa Galindo, EMS Plans Coordinator, at (916) 431-3688.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel R. Backer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Howard Backer, MD, MPH, FACEP
Director

Attachment



Ventura County Public Health

A Division of the Ventura County Health Care Agency

RIGOBERTO VARGAS, MPH
Director

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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STEVEN L. CARROLL, EMT-P
EMS Administrator
ANGELO SALVUCCI, M.D., F.A.C.E.P.
Medical Director

August 15, 2014

Lisa Galindo
EMS Plans Coordinator
Emergency Medical Services Authority
10901 Gold Center Drive, Suite 400
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6073

Dear Lisa,

The 2013 Ventura County EMS Plan "5 Year" Update is resubmitted for your review. Updated system assessment forms are included for each of the standards and guidelines and revised Tables 1 through 11 are submitted. Sections 6.09 and 8.18 now meet the Minimum Standards. Sections 1.11, 3.05, 6.01, 6.03, 6.05, 6.09, 6.11, 7.02, 7.03, 7.04, 8.04, 8.05, 8.06 and 8.13 now meet the Recommended Guidelines. Additionally, the Ambulance Zone Summary Forms are being resubmitted, however, there have been no changes to these documents since the last submission.

Significant changes in the 2013 reporting period include enhancements to the countywide ImageTrend electronic patient care reporting system to include connections between all EMS providers and base and receiving hospitals, and the implementation of a satellite backup system for the ReddiNet hospital emergency communication system. We also completed the implementation of a stroke registry for our newly established Ventura County Stroke System. In conjunction with one of our trauma centers and several EMS providers, we have implemented the Ventura County Elderly Fall Prevention Program, to reduce repeat falls in this vulnerable population. Ventura County EMS also routinely participates in disaster exercises across our jurisdiction where medical/health capacity and resource needs are assessed. A number of our staff attended the California Public Health and Medical Emergency Operations Manual training and our multi-casualty incident plan has been updated to include the trauma and specialty care facilities. Through collaboration with the Hospital Preparedness Program, we also continue to work with all hospitals, clinics and long term care facilities to coordinate disaster preparedness efforts. Lastly, in 2013, Ventura County EMS coordinated the replacement of all defibrillators in our county program and we implemented a community based "Sidewalk CPR" program with the participation of all hospitals and providers.

In response to EMSA's question regarding Pediatric System Design, Ventura County EMS is interested in exploring options to increase pediatric care and Ventura County Medical Center has established the first Pediatric Intensive Care Unit in Ventura County. However, geographic concerns and limited patient volumes limit our options at establishing a pediatric specialty care system.

Please feel free to contact me at (805) 981-5305 should you require any additional information or should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Steve Carroll