

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY**

10901 GOLD CENTER DR., SUITE 400  
RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670  
(916) 322-4336 FAX (916) 322-1441



July 23, 2018

Mr. Dan Lynch, EMS Director  
Central California EMS Agency  
P. O. Box 11867  
Fresno, CA 93775

Dear Mr. Lynch:

This letter is in response to Central California EMS Agency's 2017 EMS Plan Update submission to the EMS Authority on June 14, 2018.

**I. Introduction and Summary:**

The EMS Authority has concluded its review of Central California EMS Agency's 2017 EMS Plan Update and is approving the plan as submitted.

**II. History and Background:**

Central California EMS Agency received its last annual plan update for its 2014 plan submission.

Historically, we have received EMS Plan submissions from Central California EMS Agency for the following years:

- 2006
- 2007
- 2009-2012
- 2014

EMS plans are statutorily required to be submitted annually, pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 1797.254.

Health and Safety Code (HSC) § 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".*

Additionally, recognizing that Central California EMS Agency is a State General Funded multicounty EMS agency, funding eligibility is contingent upon the multicounty EMS agency following all applicable state and federal statutes, regulations, and guidelines, as referenced in EMSA #104, *Funding Multicounty EMS Agencies with State General Funds*.

In order for Central California EMS Agency to be compliant with statutory requirements, guidelines and contractual agreements, an EMS Plan needs to be submitted to the EMS Authority on an annual basis.

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 HSC § 1797.105(b).

### III. Analysis of EMS System Components:

Following are comments related to Central California's 2017 EMS Plan Update. Areas that indicate the plan submitted is concordant and consistent with applicable guidelines or regulations, HSC § 1797.254, and the EMS system components identified in HSC § 1797.103, are indicated below:

- |    | Approved                            | Not Approved             |   |
|----|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| A. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>System Organization and Management</u> |
| B. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Staffing/Training</u>                  |
| C. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Communications</u>                     |
| D. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Response/Transportation</u>            |

#### Ambulance Zones

- Based on the documentation provided by Central California EMS Agency, please find enclosed the EMS Authority's determination of the exclusivity of Central California EMS Agency's ambulance zones.

- |    |                                     |                          |  |
|----|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| E. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Facilities/Critical Care</u>          |
| F. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Data Collection/System Evaluation</u> |

Trauma Data - California EMS Information System (CEMSIS)

- Pursuant to Title 22 California Code of Regulations § 100257, a Local EMS Agency shall develop and implement a standardized data collection instrument and implement a data management system for trauma care. Trauma data shall be integrated into the Local EMS Agency and State EMS Authority data management system.

We understand Central California EMS Agency transitioned to a new data system, delaying the submission of trauma data. With the recent success of the trauma data system transfer, we look forward to seeing consistent data submission in the future.

G.   Public Information and Education

H.   Disaster Medical Response

#### IV. Conclusion:

Based on the information identified, Central California EMS Agency's 2017 EMS Plan Update is approved.

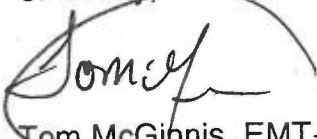
Pursuant to HSC § 1797.105(b):

*"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."*

#### V. Next Steps:

Central California EMS Agency's next annual EMS Plan Update will be due on or before July 31, 2019. If you have any questions regarding the plan review, please contact Ms. Lisa Galindo, EMS Plans Coordinator, at (916) 431-3688.

Sincerely,



Tom McGinnis, EMT-P  
Chief, EMS Systems Division

Enclosure







**Central California  
Emergency Medical Services Agency**

**REGIONAL  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
PLAN UPDATE**



**FRESNO COUNTY  
BOARD OF  
SUPERVISORS**

Andreas Borgeas  
Ernest "Buddy" Mendes  
Brian Pacheco  
Sal Quintero  
Nathan Magsig

**ADMINISTRATIVE  
OFFICER**

Jean Rousseau

**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

David Pomaville

**KINGS COUNTY  
BOARD OF  
SUPERVISORS**

Craig Pedersen  
Joe Neves  
Doug Verboon  
Richard Valle  
Richard Fagundes

**ADMINISTRATIVE  
OFFICER**

Rebecca Campbell

**DIRECTOR OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH**

Edward Hill

**MADERA COUNTY  
BOARD OF  
SUPERVISORS**

Brett Frazier  
Robert L. Poythress  
David Rogers  
Max Rodriguez  
Tom Wheeler

**ADMINISTRATIVE  
OFFICER**

Eric Fleming

**DIRECTOR OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH**

Sara Bosse

**TULARE COUNTY  
BOARD OF  
SUPERVISORS**

Pete Vander Poel  
Kuyler Crocker  
Mike Ennis  
Amy Shuklian  
Steve Worthley

**ADMINISTRATIVE  
OFFICER**

Michael C. Spata

**HEALTH & HUMAN  
SERVICES AGENCY  
DIRECTOR**

Jason T. Britt

**December 2017**

**Central California Emergency Medical Services Agency**  
*A Division of Fresno County Department of Public Health*

Director of Emergency Medical Services.....Daniel Lynch  
Emergency Medical Services Medical Director .....Jim Andrews, M.D.

Central California EMS Agency  
EMS Plan UPDATE - 2018

Summary

This EMS Plan update outlines the many changes that have occurred over the past year. The EMS System has been challenged with the on-going struggles of a struggling economy in the central valley, which impacts reimbursement and revenues to sustain available resources and programs. Reimbursement for ambulance services also continues to be increasingly challenging as the Covered California and Affordable Care Act are implemented in the state. Ambulance providers are no longer receiving reimbursement for transfer of many patients that once was covered by Medi-Cal. Changes over the last two years have changed the ability of ambulance providers to obtain reimbursement due to Medi-Cal and Medi-care rule changes. Over 50% of the the EMS Region are Medi-Cal users and 80% of the ambulance patients are either on Medi-Cal or Medi-Care. Unfortunately, this leaves substantial financial burden on the patient or on the ambulance provider. The EMS Agency has supported legislation to add additional funding to the ambulance system through the Quality Assurance Fee, Ground Emergency Medical Transport program, and the Intergovernmental Transfer process. The lack of stable reimbursement of ambulance services will continue to place the EMS system in a fragile position.

The EMS system remains resilient. EMS providers and hospitals continue to manage sufficiently in the provision of quality services while the volume of patients being transported by ambulance and seen in local emergency departments exceeds historic levels. This trend will continue and the EMS system needs to be prepared.

The EMS Agency has reviewed its priorities and continues to direct its efforts to those priorities that meet the absolute needs of the four-county EMS region. A brief summary of these changes are as follows:

- System Organization and Management
  - Continue the reorganization of EMS Agency personnel assignments to address priority needs of EMS region and address cross-training of job responsibilities
  - Updating of EMS Policies and Procedures for the 4-county EMS region
  - Address the increase in frequent user and system abusers of ambulance and hospital system through implementation of policy and coordination with other agencies and departments
  - Reviewed on-going legislation
  
- Staffing and Training
  - Continued the provision of 2 paramedic training courses
  - Began looking for new/additional space for the paramedic training program
  - Created a EMS Agency position to specifically coordinate specialty care services (i.e. Trauma, STEMI, Stroke, EMS-C, etc)
  
- Communications
  - Completed renovation of space to add six dispatch consoles to the Fresno County EMS Communications Center.
  - Continued efforts towards expanding Fresno County EMS Communications Center for future growth.

- Response and Transportation
  - Continue to monitor policies to address immediate transport of patients as a priority
  - Monitor EMS response to 5150 and mental health patients. Continue work with behavioral health departments to better manage the care and destination of clients. This includes the participation in the Community Paramedic Project for alternate destinations.
  - Prepare and distribute monthly performance reports on ambulance providers
  - Completed the annual ambulance rate study for the region.
  
- Facilities and Critical Care Centers
  - Participation and leadership of the Central Region Trauma Coordinating Committee for development and management of a trauma system with-in the surrounding 12 counties
  - Provide leadership and support, in conjunction with the Hospital Association, on the repatriation of patients to assure capacity at the designated trauma and cardiac centers.
  - Held multiple meetings with Community Regional Medical Center and CDPH Licensing and Certification regarding holding ambulance resources for extended periods of time
  - Assist in the coordination of the closure of Tulare Regional Medical Center
  - Assist in the ACS verification of Valley Children's Hospital as a Level II Pediatric Trauma Center
  - Assist in the ACS verification of Kaweah Delta Medical Center a Level III Trauma Center (the last one – All trauma center have ACS verification).
  
- Data Collection and Evaluation
  - Continued to evaluate and monitor on-scene time performance regarding STAT trauma and STAT Medical patients
  - Collection, verification and submittal of prehospital and trauma data to CEMISIS
  - Transitioned patient care information data set to NEMESIS 3.4 Compliant
  - Participation in the Central Valley Health Information Exchange.
  
- Disaster Response
  - Manage and implement the LEMSA Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) Grant
  - Participation and leadership of the Homeland Security Grant Committee
  - Planning and implementation of disaster drills including tabletop and functional hospital exercise, hazmat and MCI training, and Incident Command System training
  - Continued implementation and training of EMS polices related to multi-casualty/mass casualty incidents, including prehospital, hospital, dispatch and EMS Agency responses
  - Deployment of ambulance strike teams to the Napa/Sonoma Fires
  - CCEMSA Mutual Aid response to Mariposa fires due to access issues for Mountain-Valley EMS
  
- Public Information and Education
  - Release of media information and participation in media events related emergency medical services.
  - The EMS Agency conducted presentations at the Fresno and Tulare County Boards of Supervisors



**Table 1 - System Organization and Management**

<b>Agency Administration</b>	<b>Does not currently meet standard</b>	<b>Meets minimum standard</b>	<b>Meets recommended guidelines</b>	<b>Short-range Plan</b>	<b>Long-range Plan</b>
1.01 LEMSA Structure		X		X	
1.02 LEMSA Mission		X		X	
1.03 Public Input		X		X	X
1.04 Medical Director		X	X		

**Planning Activities**

1.05 System Plan		X		X	
1.06 Annual Plan Update		X		X	
1.07 Trauma Planning		X	X	X	X
1.08 ALS Planning		X			
1.09 Inventory of Resources		X		X	
1.10 Special Populations		X	X		X
1.11 System Participants		X	X	X	

<b>Regulatory Activities</b>	<b>Does not currently meet standard</b>	<b>Meets minimum standard</b>	<b>Meets recommended guidelines</b>	<b>Short-range Plan</b>	<b>Long-range Plan</b>
1.12 Review & Monitoring		X		X	
1.13 Coordination		X		X	
1.14 Policy & Procedures Manual		X		X	
1.15 Compliance w/ Policies		X		X	

**System Finances**

1.16 Funding Mechanism		X			
------------------------	--	---	--	--	--

Medical Direction	Does not currently meet standard	Meets minimum standard	Meets recommended guidelines	Short-range Plan	Long-range Plan
1.17 Medical Direction		X		X	X
1.18 QA / QI		X	X	X	
1.19 Policies, Procedures, Protocols		X	X	X	X
1.20 DNR Policy		X		X	X
1.21 Determination of Death		X		X	
1.22 Reporting of Abuse		X		X	
1.23 Interfacility Transfer		X		X	

**Enhanced Level: Advanced Life Support**

1.24 ALS Systems		X	X	X	X
1.25 On-Line Medical Direction		X	X	X	

Enhanced Level: Trauma Care System	Does not currently meet standard	Meets minimum standard	Meets recommended guidelines	Short-range Plan	Long-range Plan
1.26 Trauma System Plan		X		X	

**Enhanced Level: Pediatric Emergency Medical and Critical Care System**

1.27 Pediatric System Plan		X			
----------------------------	--	---	--	--	--

**Enhanced Level: Exclusive Operating Areas**

1.28 EOA Plan		X		X	X
---------------	--	---	--	---	---

Staffing / Training

Local EMS agency	Does not currently meet standard	Meets minimum standard	Meets recommended guidelines	Short-range Plan	Long-range Plan
2.01 Assessment of Needs		X		X	X
2.02 Approval of Training		X			X
2.03 Personnel		X		X	

Dispatchers

2.04 Dispatch Training		X	X	X	X
------------------------	--	---	---	---	---

First Responders (non-transporting)

2.05 First Responder Training		X		X	X
2.06 Response		X		X	X
2.07 Medical Control		X			

Transporting Personnel

2.08 EMT-I Training		X	X	X	X
---------------------	--	---	---	---	---

Hospital

2.09 CPR Training		X			
2.10 Advanced Life Support		X	X		X

Enhanced Level: Advanced Life Support	Does not currently meet standard	Meets minimum standard	Meets recommended guidelines	Short-range Plan	Long-range Plan
2.11 Accreditation Process		X			X
2.12 Early Defibrillation		X			
2.13 Base Hospital Personnel		X		X	