

de la Guerra, Sheila

Public Comment - Group 2 #8

From: EB New <eb@hevanet.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 1, 2023 9:49 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Ambulance Contract



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Hello,

I am not clear what the purpose of the ambulance item in the agenda is, nevertheless I would like to provide a comment that I favor the fire department getting the ambulance contract. I'd expect the expense for ambulance service to be cheaper through a public contract.

Regards,

Eberhard Brunner
452 Fellowship Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Craig Wines <craigwines@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 1, 2023 8:02 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: AMR RFP APPROVAL

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Supervisor,

I could waste your time by going into depth regarding this issue, but I will keep this brief. I am a field Medical Provider. It has been my part-time job at AMR for 9 years. Two years ago I retired from my long career of Custom home building, most recently on Hollister Ranch. During that time I rode Ambulances at night and volunteer for the Medical Reserve Corps. Since my retirement, I have committed to furthering my Medical career by going back to med school to obtain my Paramedics license. This at the tender age of 62. I love what I do, the people I serve with love what they do and Santa Barbara Co. AMR is nationally recognized for the quality service we provide.

A candid conversation with most, if not all, of the Fire fighters in the field would reveal their lack of interest in performing the medical aspect of a call. It is not what they signed-up for. Eighty-six percent of their calls last year were medical, helping to load patients and carry my equipment. AMR pays the County of Santa Barbara for the privilege to provide this service. If County Fire takes over, local residents will be paying for it, in more ways than one.

I thank you for your consideration.

Be well.

Craig J. Wines, NREMT
Logistics Chief S.B. Co. MRC
AMR-EMT, ERT Logistics Chief
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Beamed via mi eye fone...

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Joseph Freeman <josephfreemanmd@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 2, 2023 12:04 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: EMS ambulance decision

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear County of SB Board Members,

I strongly urge you to continue your EMS Ambulance service through AMR. Our local AMR team has proven through their years of dedication to the utmost in rapid evaluation and treatment of our community that they will continue to serve our community with the best care possible. I fear that if a transition to fire-based ambulance care were to happen, it would lead to longer response times, less expertise care, and ultimately poor patient outcomes.

Joseph Freeman, MD, FACEP
Emergency Medicine
Santa Barbara Cottage Health

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Christopher Flynn <flynner@protonmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 2, 2023 12:48 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: AMR should Continue to provide service in Santa Barbara County

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

To: Board of Supervisors,
April 1st, 2023

I have been an Emergency Physician for Cottage hospital for the past 25 years and understand very well the network of providers for both County Fire and AMR ambulance services. Having served as the Medical director for Carpinteria and Summerland Fire district as well as UCSB in the past, I have the unique experience of supervising and understanding the roles the agencies play in our community.

From my educated perspective as a Practicing ED physician, I can tell you that AMR is the most well equipped to maintain public safety for ambulance transfers in our Santa Barbara Community. AMR has the most experienced paramedics for managing complex patients in our community and are trained in the stabilization and medical management of our mental health patients who access 911 services in the community.

The County Fire department are an important aspect of providing on-scene support and for many years they have provided a partnership for responding to 911 emergency calls in the Carpinteria, Summerland, Santa Barbara and Goleta communities.

However, I have supervised the level of medical knowledge and expertise for both of these groups and can tell the Board of Supervisors that the Paramedics actively working for AMR are far superior in both technical skills and on scene medical management of critical patients in our community. The Fire departments are overlooking the fact that most of the paramedics have not managed medical calls for decades and winning the contract will do nothing to give the time, retraining, staffing and education to allow former Fire paramedics the knowledge and skills needed for our communities. Having done hundreds of case reviews for the medical management of patients that were evaluated by County Fire EMS over the years, I can clearly state that allowing County Fire to be awarded the contract would be detrimental to public safety. County Fire leadership have not considered the years of training and manpower it would take for this agency to match the quality and service for medical management we already have established from AMR in our central coast community.

Please support AMR for the exclusive contract of ambulance and EMT services in Santa Barbara and surrounding regions.

Christopher Flynn, MD
Emergency Medicine Physician

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: mr.beagle@cox.net
Sent: Sunday, April 2, 2023 2:39 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Ambulance service

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Board of Supervisors:

We have had several occasions recently to call 911, and each time AMR has responded quickly, efficiently, and professionally. We would hate to see their excellent service replaced with an unknown operation for possible life-saving calls. I urge you to continue contracting with AMR for the safety and well-being of Santa Barbara County citizens.

Respectfully,

Ralph Wilson

Ralph Wilson
3919 Camellia Lane
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
805-687-1409

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Adrian S <adrian.stout33@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 1, 2023 9:19 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Santa Barbara County EMSA RFP

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

701 E Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454

April 1, 2023

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 E Anapamu St
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear County Supervisors,

I am writing this letter in response to the upcoming Board of Supervisors Meeting that is taking place on April 4th, regarding the Santa Barbara County Emergency Medical Services proposal. As a member of this county since my inception, it is safe to say that I have a strong interest in those that serve our communities. I have family here and I love the community I serve.

As a member of American Medical Response, I have taken service to my community as a part of my life in the same way as you. I work to care for the individuals and city that shaped me to be the way I am. As someone who sits on our county's board, you work for the betterment of the county at large. Our county has had the same ambulance service, AMR, since 1978. During this time, the service has maintained the highest quality of care and fastest times in the industry. Not to mention, the constant sole focus on honing and bettering the medical care being provided.

I am a proud member of AMR, and I would love my community to continue to receive the best possible care. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely yours,

Adrian Stout

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Brett Wilson <bwilsons@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 11:30 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Prehospital RFP Public Comment

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Esteemed Board of Supervisors,

I realize you have a difficult decision to make regarding which agency should manage prehospital care in Santa Barbara County. I am the recent Chair of Emergency Medicine at Cottage Health and would like you know I support AMR as continuing with the prehospital contract for several reasons.

1. The care AMR currently provides and their response times are excellent. The current system is working well.
2. AMR resources will not be pulled from our community when other counties need assistance with wildland fires, etc. which seem to be having year round events. County fire will be and thus create a stress on human resources to provide care and coverage for Santa Barbara County. They will need to upstage which will create a much greater cost to the tax payers for additional FTE and long term pension burdens without any improvement in care provided.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this decision and its impact on our County and tax payers for many years to come.

BRETT WILSON II, M.D.
Recent Chair of Emergency Medicine
Cottage Health System
bwilsons@gmail.com
cell (805) 618-0335

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Anthony Catalano <awcatalano@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 11:31 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Ambulance RFP - An Emergency Physician's Perspective

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Board

I am a Board Certified Emergency Medicine physician at Cottage Hospital that cares for our community. I serve on multiple County EMS committees and am the medical director for both the County's largest prehospital provider and our Search and Rescue team. I worked in the ER the day of the debris flow. I searched the rubble for missing bodies. I am morally compelled to write this letter today BEGGING you to listen to the members of your medical community in making this extremely important decision: don't change our excellent EMS system.

I feel like a child watching my parents go through a divorce, and it makes me sick that I feel like I have to choose sides. I love both AMR and our Fire Departments, they are an excellent TEAM and have worked well together for years. The data shows, year after year, that we have some of the best patient outcomes in the country. We have a proven system that works. Changing the fabric of our prehospital system has almost no likelihood of improving an already-excellent system and is VERY LIKELY TO CAUSE HARM. Do not put peoples' lives at risk.

As Emergency Physicians, we are the only ones whose training and board certification includes EMS systems and prehospital care. When the Board initially met to discuss opening the ambulance contract to an open bid, in the interest of patient care every physician who lives and works in this county that spoke on the matter advised against an RFP. Please help us put our patients, your constituents, first.

If the health of our community is truly a priority, this decision should be simple. A basic tenet of Emergency Medicine and EMS that is easy to conflate without a deep knowledge of how these systems work is the difference between STATIC and DYNAMIC deployment. With a station-based static deployment model, ambulances cannot move easily to back fill geographic areas where other units are out on calls, whereas dynamic systems that are not station-based can easily reposition themselves to more effectively cover areas while calls are taking place. The Fire Department is proposing keeping 11 of their budgeted units static at their stations and, inexplicably, will use them ONLY to respond to P1 calls, which account for only 0.15% of all encounters. This means 99.85% of all calls will be handled by fewer ambulances. In contrast, AMR has proposed 300 more hours per week of ambulance coverage than the fire services have budgeted for in their proposal. This is not in the best interest of our community and demonstrates a complete lack of understanding of the complexities of staffing an EMS system.

If I'm looking at the data correctly, in 50 years AMR has never been out of compliance with response times, and as it stands the Fire Department uses exemptions at twice the rate to make this number. AMR costs the County nothing to operate — no salary, benefits, or pension obligations. They focus 100% of their career on patient care instead of dividing their time among various skill sets, and will never be called away for fire responses. Objective consultants and panels consisting of neutral members of our community agree that extending the current system is in the best interest of our community. We should not change a proven system.

Please, as one who has been elected to make decisions for the good of your community, do not ignore the evidence, experts, and consultants.

Do the right thing. We're begging you.
Anthony Catalano, MD, FACEP

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Anthony W. Catalano, MD, FACEP

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