



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Public Health Dept.
Department No.: 041
For Agenda Of: December 4, 2012
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: Yes
If Yes, date from: October 16, 2012
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Takashi Wada, MD, MPH, Director and Health Officer, Public
Director(s) Health Department
Contact Info: Nancy Lapolla, MPH, EMS Agency, Director 681-5264

SUBJECT: Agreement for Emergency Air Medical Transport Services with California Shock
Trauma Air Rescue (CALSTAR)

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board consider recommendations regarding an Agreement with California Shock Trauma Air Rescue (CALSTAR) as follows:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement with CALSTAR to provide non-exclusive emergency air ambulance transport services within the County of Santa Barbara for a three (3) year period, with an option for two, 1-year extensions.
- b) Determine that these activities are exempt from California Environmental Quality Act review per CEQA Guideline Section 15061(b)(3), since it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activities may have a significant effect on the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the Agenda to execute an Agreement with CALSTAR's air ambulance transport services. This item was continued from the October 16, 2012 agenda in order to include additional contractor requirements in the Agreement to abate noise and other impacts of air transport to the surrounding communities. All EMS agencies that use air ambulance services are mandated by state regulations to set minimum standards for the integration of EMS aircraft and personnel into the local prehospital patient transport system. The EMS Agency is required to enter into an agreement with all Advance Life Support (ALS) providers providing services as part of an organized EMS system. This Agreement with CALSTAR is for a non-exclusive air ambulance service area, serving the entire county.

Background:

Helicopter programs play a significant role in EMS systems delivering critical patients to acute care centers and severely injured trauma victims to trauma centers. We currently are fortunate to have two types of helicopter services in Santa Barbara County. CALSTAR is a licensed Air Ambulance service and Santa Barbara County's Aviation Program operates with Rescue Aircrafts. California Code of Regulations, (Pre-hospital Emergency Medical Services - Title 22, § 100280 and § 100281) defines these services as follows:

Air Ambulance - An aircraft specifically constructed, modified, or equipped and used for the primary purposes of transporting critically ill or injured patients whose flight crew has at a minimum two (2) attendants accredited and/or licensed to provide Advanced Life Support.

Rescue Aircraft - An aircraft whose usual function is not pre-hospital emergency patient transport, but which may be utilized in compliance with local EMS policy, for pre-hospital emergency patient transports when use of an air or ground ambulance is inappropriate or unavailable. Rescue aircraft includes ALS rescue aircraft, BLS rescue aircraft, and Auxiliary rescue aircraft.

CALSTAR has operated as an air ambulance under an Agreement with Santa Barbara County since October 1, 2006. CALSTAR is a regional, non-profit, 501(c)(3) helicopter company with base flight operations in Santa Barbara County, located at the Santa Maria Airport. The CALSTAR flight crew consists of a Pilot and two critical care Flight Nurses (RNs). Pilots have a minimum of 3,000 hours of turbine helicopter flight time. Flight Nurses have three to five years experience in either an intensive care unit or emergency room and many have had pre-hospital care experience prior to joining CALSTAR. Prior to commencing flight duties, all Flight Nurses undergo an intensive course (didactic & clinical) in aero medical transport, pediatrics, basic trauma life support and pre-hospital care.

The Agreement includes a detailed scope of operations with clearly defined performance requirements. CALSTAR agrees to comply with Santa Barbara County EMS Policies and Procedures. CALSTAR also agrees to only provide air medical transport services and patient care when requested through Santa Barbara County Public Safety Communication Center in accordance with Santa Barbara County EMS Agency's Air Medical Transport policy. The EMS Agency's Contract Compliance Committee will review CALSTAR's contract performance and make recommendations for any contract extensions provided for in this Agreement.

Mandates and Service Levels: California State law requires that all providers of air medical transport ALS services have a written agreement with the local emergency medical services agency.

Division 2.5, Section 1797.218, of the Health and Safety Code, gives the local County Emergency Medical Services Agency the responsibility and the authority to authorize an air medical transport ALS or limited ALS program which provides services utilizing Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), Emergency Medical Technicians – Paramedic (EMT-P), and/or Mobile Intensive Care Registered Nurses (MICN) for the delivery of emergency medical care to the sick and injured at the scene of an emergency, air transport to a general acute care hospital, and during training within the facilities of a participating general acute care hospital.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: N/A

Fiscal Analysis:

There are no increased costs or use of General Fund resources as a result of executing this Agreement. All costs for air medical transport services will be borne by CALSTAR. COUNTY shall not be liable for any costs or expenses incurred by CALSTAR by reason of this Agreement. CALSTAR will bill private parties and/or responsible third parties to collect for services rendered.

Special Instructions:

Please retain one executed original Agreement with a copy of the Minute Order for pick up. Email PHDcu@sbcphd.org when the items are ready for pickup.

Attachments:

Agreement with CALSTAR

Authored by:

Nancy Lapolla, MPH