



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
Department No.: 041
For Agenda Of: January 17, 2012
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Tme: 1-17-12; 1st Reading-20 min
2-7-12; 2nd Read/Adoption
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Takashi Wada, MD, MPH, Director and Health Officer
Director(s) Public Health Department
Contact Info: Nancy Lapolla, MPH, Director, Emergency Medical Services Agency
SUBJECT: EMS Agency Ordinance for Fee Increase

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors consider the following recommendations regarding an Ordinance for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency Fees:

- A) Receive a presentation regarding Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and EMT-Paramedic (EMT-P) certification and accreditation fees.
- B) Consider the introduction and First Reading of an Ordinance to increase fees for EMT certification, re-certification, and EMT-P accreditations.
- C) Set a Hearing for February 7, 2012 to consider the following recommendations regarding an Ordinance for EMS Agency Fees:
 - i. Authorize the Chair to Adopt (Second Reading) the EMS Agency Ordinance to increase fees.
 - ii. 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 for your consideration to adopt an Ordinance pertaining to EMS Agency fees. The EMS Agency administers the EMT certification and EMT-P accreditation process in Santa Barbara County. State law authorizes the EMS Agency to certify EMTs and locally accredit EMT-Ps.

EMT Certification

EMTs provide basic life support and may work alongside a paramedic in the EMS field. EMTs may also work in hospitals, clinics, other healthcare settings, law enforcement, and as life guards. EMTs are certified at the county level and the certification is recognized throughout the State of California. Certification is valid for a two year period. EMTs are required to recertify every two years thereafter, showing completion of ongoing required education including skills verification. The certifying agency is required to review the application as well as ensure there is nothing in the Department of Justice background check prohibiting them from working as an EMT.

In addition to the EMS Agency, public safety agencies may also become a certifying entity for their EMTs. Most fire agencies within the county certify their own EMTs. Currently three fire agencies utilize the EMS Agency as their certifying entity: Guadalupe Fire, Vandenberg Fire and Santa Maria City Fire. Santa Maria Fire (with 47 EMTs) and Vandenberg Fire (with 54 EMTs) pay this fee for their employees. Guadalupe requires the EMTs to pay the certification fee themselves.

EMT-P Accreditation

EMT-Ps undergo more extensive training than an EMT and provide advanced life support, such as the administration of certain drugs. EMT-Ps are licensed by the state and must be accredited at the local level to work in a local EMS system. An EMT-P is required to accredit once with the local EMS Agency. They need to submit documentation to ensure they have successfully been oriented to the local EMS system and understand all the EMS Agency's policies and procedures. The EMS Agency also establishes specific ongoing training requirements for paramedics. In order to ensure that an EMT-P has attended all mandatory training and successfully renewed their state license, the EMS Agency requires EMT-Ps to submit information every two years. In addition to providing information on the required training, the EMS agency is also responsible for conducting investigations into complaints and/or quality of care issues that may lead to licensure action by the state and suspension of local accreditation. These investigations may result in the implementation of a process improvement plan. This is a standard for all EMS agencies to ensure high quality care is provided in the EMS system and that an individual paramedic is qualified to be accredited locally to work within the EMS system.

In FY 2010-11 there were **148** EMT-Ps in Santa Barbara County. Each year the EMS Agency accredits approximately **20** new EMT-Ps. In FY 2010-11 the EMS Agency certified 114 EMTs and recertified 252.

Background:

EMT certification/re-certification and EMT-P accreditation fees were established in 1981. Fees were adjusted in 2001 but have not increased since. An activity-based fee study was conducted which realigns fees to the costs of service. The fee study was done in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and incorporated all costs incurred in providing services as well as County Wide Cost Allocation (A87) Plan overhead charges.

The activity-based fee study included EMS Agency staff who perform the following activities:

- EMT basic initial certification process
- EMT refresher process
- EMT negative action as shown by the Department of Justice
- EMT negative action as shown by the Department of Justice for any subsequent arrest
- Paramedic initial accreditation process

The fee study was based on the actual cost of providing the service and is anticipated to increase revenue from \$11,691 annually to \$28,698.

Classification	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Cases Per Year	Projected Yearly Revenue
EMT Certification	\$22.00	\$ 89.00	114	\$ 10,146
EMT Re-certification	\$22.00	\$ 57.00	252	\$14,364
New Paramedic Accreditation	\$52.00	\$209.00	20	\$ 4,188

The EMS Agency conducted a survey of EMT and EMT-P fees with Santa Barbara’s benchmark counties and non-benchmark counties. The fee schedule varies greatly between counties, ranging from \$10 to \$100 for EMT certification/recertification; and \$10 to \$286 for EMT-P accreditation.

Agency	EMT cert.	EMT recert.	Paramedic accred.	*Counties included
CEMSA*	\$33.00	\$30.00	\$57.00	Fresno, Kings, Madera and Tulare
CVEMSA*	\$80.00	\$80.00	\$200.00	Mendocino, Sonoma and Napa
Marin	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$75.00	
Monterey	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
San Luis Obispo	\$55.00	\$55.00	\$250.00	
Santa Cruz	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$75.00	
Solano	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$55.00	
S-SVEMSA*	\$28.00	\$28.00	\$60.00	Placer, Yolo, Yuba, Sutter, Nevada, Colusa, Butte, Shasta, Tehama and Siskiyou
Santa Barbara	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$52.00	Current
Santa Barbara	\$89.00	\$57.00	\$209.00	Proposed
Alameda	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	
Contra Costa	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$50.00	
El Dorado	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	
ICEMA*	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$80.00	
Imperial	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$20.00	
Kern County	\$37.00	\$37.00	\$286.00	
Los Angeles	\$30.00	\$20.00	\$265.00	
Merced	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	
MVEMSA *	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$75.00	
Nor Cal EMS*	\$45.00	\$28.00	\$100.00	
North Coast*	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$100.00	
Orange County	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$62.00	
Riverside	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$75.00	
Sacramento	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$35.00	
San Benito	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
San Diego	\$17.00	\$17.00	\$17.00	
San Francisco	\$34.00	\$34.00	\$31.00	
San Joaquin	\$75.00	\$45.00	\$275.00	

Agency	EMT cert.	EMT recert.	Paramedic accred.
San Mateo	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Santa Clara	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$150.00
Tuolumne	\$86.00	\$28.00	\$63.50
Ventura	\$46.00	\$50.00	\$60.00

***Counties included**

Total counties 32

* Multiple counties under one EMS Agency

California Health and Safety Code, Chapter 4, Section 1797.212 authorizes the local EMS Agency to establish a schedule of fees for certification in an amount sufficient to cover the reasonable cost of administering the certification provisions.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts: Budgeted: No.

Fiscal Analysis:

There is no increase in the use of the County’s General Fund resources by the Public Health Department as a result of adopting this Ordinance. If adopted, the proposed fees will increase revenue by approximately \$17,007 in addition to the current budgeted amount of \$11,691. The projected total yearly revenue is \$28,698 and will be used to offset reduced funding from the Maddy fund that was used to support EMS Agency operations.

The fee study incorporated all costs, both direct and indirect, with the provision of these services. Upon adoption of the Ordinance, PHD will return to your Board with the necessary budget revision request. The allotment will be included in the EMS cost center of the Community Health Division of the PHD shown on page D-216 of the County’s Operating Plan Document.

This action will not result in a need for additional facilities.

Special Instructions:

Please return one adopted Ordinance and one certified minute order to PHD Contracts Unit, 300 North San Antonio Road, Building 8, Santa Barbara, CA 93110, Attn: Rose Davis.

Attachments:

Ordinance Authorizing the Santa Barbara County Emergency Medical Services Agency to Increase EMT and EMT-P Fees.

Presentation on EMT and EMT-P Fees

Authored by:

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