

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



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

Agenda Number:

Prepared on: 10/12/2006
Department Name: Public Health Department
Department No.: 041
Agenda Date: 10/24/2006
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If Yes, date from:
Document File Name:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Elliot Schulman, MD, MPH
Public Health Department Director and Health Officer

STAFF CONTACT: Nancy Lapolla, Director
Emergency Medical Services (681-5264)

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

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the Agreement with CALSTAR to provide non exclusive emergency air medical transport services within the County of Santa Barbara for a three (3) year period, with the option for two-one year extensions.
2. Authorize the Public Health Department Director to approve up to two, one-year extensions to this agreement based upon a positive recommendation of the Contract Compliance Committee.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal No. 2, A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit and Goal #5, a High Quality of Life for All Residents.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

The EMS Agency is requesting that your Board execute this Agreement with CALSTAR's air ambulance transport services. 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. Mercy Air Inc. had previously been contracted to provide primary air ambulance services for Santa Barbara County. In the spring of 2006 Mercy Air Inc. stopped providing services to Santa Barbara County.

CALSTAR had been providing services at secondary call out and has subsequently been providing primary services for Santa Barbara County with a letter of approval from the EMS Agency. 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.

CALSTAR is a regional, public, non-profit, 501(c)(3)-helicopter company that has a base of 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 (RN's). Pilots have a minimum of 3000 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 prehospital care experience prior to joining CALSTAR. All Flight Nurses undergo an intensive course (didactic & clinical) in aeromedical transport, pediatrics, basic trauma life support and prehospital care prior to commencing flight duties.

Helicopter air ambulance programs play a significant role in delivering critical patients to acute care centers and severely injured trauma victims to trauma centers. The attached Agreement includes a Statement of Work that details the scope of services to be provided with clearly defined performance requirements. The following are two examples as identified on Exhibit A Statement of Work of the Contract: 1) Meet lift off time of five-minutes of notification from dispatch ninety percent (90%) of the time; 2) Meet an estimated time of arrival (ETA) within five minutes ninety percent (90%) of the time. CALSTAR agrees to comply with Santa Barbara County Emergency Medical Services Policies and Procedures. CALSTAR additionally agrees to only provide air medical transport advance life support services and patient care at the scene of a medical emergency when requested through Santa Barbara County Public Safety Communication Center in accordance with Santa Barbara County's Air Medical Transport policy. The EMS Agency's Contract Compliance Committee will be utilized in reviewing CALSTAR'S contract performance and making recommendations for any contract extensions provided for in this agreement.

In addition to CALSTAR's air ambulance services with two critical care nurses, Santa Barbara County is fortunate to have available as back-up resources the rescue helicopter services of County Fire and the California Highway Patrol that both provide one paramedic for rescue services when they are not providing services directly related to their primary missions (fire suppressions and law enforcement).

Mandates and Service Levels: California State law requires that all providers of air medical transport advance life support 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 advanced life support or limited advanced life support program which provides services utilizing EMT-I, EMT-P, and/or Registered Nurse (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 Impact: There is no anticipated impact to the General Fund. All costs for air medical transport services will be borne by CALSTAR. CALSTAR will bill the patient for services rendered.

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

Agenda Date: October 24, 2006

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Special Instructions:

Please return two of the three fully executed contracts along with a copy of the minute order to PHD Contracts Unit, 300 North San Antonio Road, Building 8, Santa Barbara, CA 93110 **ATTN: Margaret A. Granger (805) 681 5367.**

Concurrence: None required.