



Lou Ann Teixeira
Executive Officer

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May 14, 2014 (Agenda)

May 14, 2014
Agenda Item 11

Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission
651 Pine Street, Sixth Floor
Martinez, CA 94553

Update – County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Modernization Study

Dear Members of the Commission:

In February 2013, the County embarked on two separate studies – one covering EMS and a second covering the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. Each study has a separate focus and scope of work supported by two distinct consultant teams of Fitch & Associates.

The fire study is now complete, and the EMS study is nearing completion. The focus of the EMS study is to evaluate how best to modernize and deliver coordinated EMS utilizing current operational capabilities and fiscal resources. An important component of the study is stakeholder interaction with various groups, including fire, ambulance, and law enforcement service providers, community hospitals, patient advocacy groups, city officials, health plan and policy leadership, and LAFCO.

The project team recently completed a series of stakeholder interviews and updates, including a briefing with the LAFCO representatives. On April 9th, a Town Hall meeting was held to receive public comment on the Draft report which was released on March 24th. The public comment period ended on May 6th. A copy of the LAFCO comment letter is attached.

The EMS report includes a number of recommendations dealing with healthcare reform, financial issues, and community health and clinical care, aimed at enhancing accountability and integration and ensuring value. Potential system savings identified in the report exceed \$3 million. Some of the report recommendations are highlighted below.

EMS REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Dispatch 1st responders only when beneficial to patient
- Extend ambulance response times by 60 seconds
- Standardize performance requirements in Exclusive Operating Areas
- Eliminate QRV and STAR cars
- Establish formal collaborations for ongoing work for integrating healthcare and addressing specific issues
- Create incentives to innovate and eliminate obstacles
- Increase ambulance fees and allow treat and no transport charges
- Establish/acquire consolidated and quality medical dispatch
- Implement standardized continuous electronic patient care record delivered real time to facilities
- Invest in sophisticated information systems to facilitate data collection and analysis
- Continue to expand prevention efforts
- Focus on system approaches to care
- Match patient needs with appropriate resources

The final EMS report will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in June 2014.

RECOMMENDATION - Receive update.

Sincerely,

LOU ANN TEXEIRA
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Attached – LAFCO Comment Letter – EMS Modernization Report



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May 6, 2014

Pat Frost, RN, MS, PNP
Director Emergency Medical Services
Contra Costa Health Services
1340 Arnold Drive, Suite 126
Martinez CA 94553

Dear Pat,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the *EMS Modernization Project Report*, and for the opportunity to meet with members of the Fitch team on April 9th to discuss the report, as many of our questions were answered at that time.

The LAFCO subcommittee, comprised of Commissioners Blubaugh and Tatzin, and LAFCO staff offer the following specific and general comments and questions.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. *Financial Issues* (p. 2) - The report notes that “expenses continue to climb as the agency’s responsibilities expand and additional funding will be required...” Can you provide an example or two here of how the agency’s responsibilities are expanding?

INTRODUCTION

2. *System Overview* (p. 7) – Under the section “Eleven Fire Agencies” the following fire/EMS service providers are not listed: CALFIRE, Kensington Fire Protection District (FPD). Also, Crockett Fire is actually “Crockett-Carquinez FPD.” Finally, fire service in Contra Costa County is also provided by private fire brigades (e.g., refineries).

REGIONAL COORDINATION

3. *Communications Systems* (p. 31) - The list of agencies in Paragraph 3 does not include cities of El Cerrito, Oakley, San Ramon and the Town of Danville. Also, please note that El Sobrante is an unincorporated community.
4. *Communications Systems* (pp. 35 and 37) – There is reference to migration of the radio system to the East Bay Regional Communication System (EBRCS). What is the status of this project?

RESPONSE AND TRANSPORT

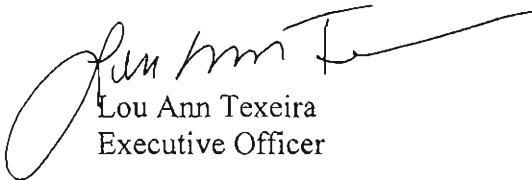
5. *Section Recommendations: Response and Transport* (pp. 57-58) – Several of the speakers at the April 9th Town Hall meeting mentioned Laura’s Law. Will you be including any mention of Laura’s Law in this section and/or other sections of the report?

GENERAL COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

6. The potential closure of Doctors Medical Center in San Pablo would have an overwhelming effect on emergency medical services throughout the county. We suggest you include additional information about this significant issue in the report.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to receiving a copy of the final report.

Sincerely,



Lou Ann Texeira
Executive Officer

c: Each Member, Contra Costa LAFCO