



# Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in Mendocino County

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors meeting  
October 16, 2018



# Purpose

- Update Board of Supervisors regarding EMS meetings
- EMS 101 – Roles and Responsibilities
- Receive Board direction regarding the LEMSA model
- Recommend the creation and addition of three Mendocino County EMS positions to support EMS services
  - EMS Administrator
  - EMS Specialist
  - EMS Medical Director (part time)
  - Other program and administrative resources as necessary



# EMS Meetings

- Small group of EMS stakeholders meeting with County staff regarding the LEMSA model
- Board of Supervisors Dispatch Ad Hoc attending multiple EMS stakeholders meetings
- Various EMS questions and issues addressed during EMS stakeholders meetings
- EMS stakeholders meetings result in formalizing the EMCC structure



# EMS 101 – Roles and Responsibilities

- Definition and legal requirements for a Local Emergency Medical Services Agency (LEMSA)
- Background Information
- Required Levels of Service
- Various LEMSAs Model Approaches



# EMS System Definition

- Section 1201(1), U.S. Public Health Service Act
  - A system which provides for the arrangement of personnel, facilities, and equipment for the effective and coordinated delivery in an appropriate geographic area of health care services under emergency conditions (occurring either as a result of the patient's condition or of natural disasters or similar conditions) and which is administered by a public or nonprofit private entity which has the authority and the resources to provide effective administration of the system



# California Emergency Medical Services Law

- Legal requirements for emergency medical care, communication, transportation, assessment of facilities, disaster response, and other EMS services are addressed in five California Codes and several titles of the California Code of Regulations:
  - California Health and Safety Code Division 2.5, January 1, 2016
  - § 1797, § 1798, § 1799
  - Chapter 4 is about local administration
  - Title 22: Division 9 of the California Code of Regulations

# California Health & Safety Code, Division 2.5

- Chapter 1 General Provisions
- Chapter 2 Definitions
- Chapter 2.5 The Maddy Emergency Medical Services Fund
- Chapter 3 State Administration
- Chapter 3.75 Trauma Care Fund
- Chapter 4 Local Administration
- Chapter 5 Medical Control
- Chapter 6 Facilities
- Chapter 7 Penalties
- Chapter 8 The Commission on Emergency Medical Services
- Chapter 9 Liability Limitation
- Chapter 11 Emergency and Critical Care Services for Children
- Chapter 12 Emergency Medical Services System for Children

# California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA)



- Created in 1980 to provide statewide leadership and standards for training and scope of practice
- In 1980 Governor Jerry Brown signed into law the Emergency Medical Services System and Prehospital Emergency Care Personnel Act (SB 125) creating the Emergency Medical Services Authority and adding Division 2.5 to the Health and Safety Code (sections 1797-1799)
- EMSA's mission is to ensure quality patient care by administering an effective statewide system of coordinated emergency medical care, injury prevention and disaster medical response
- California EMSA coordinates the EMS system statewide and sets standards through the process of regulation



# Local EMS Agency Systems Plans Review

- EMSA reviews EMS plans from local EMS agencies to ensure they meet the requirements of the Health and Safety Code and provide a coordinated system of emergency medical care
- This includes evaluation of the ambulance zones (including EOAs)



# California EMS System Standards and Guidelines



# Standards and Guidelines

## Topic Areas

- System organization/management
- Staffing and training
- Communications
- Response/transportation
- Facilities/critical care
- Data collection/system evaluation
- Public information and education
- Disaster medical response



# Various LEMSA Models

- Coastal Valleys EMS Agency Model
- Join another regional LEMSA
- Create a single county, Mendocino County LEMSA

# Coastal Valleys EMS Agency Model



- Coastal Valleys EMS Agency (CVEMSA) operates under the statutory authority established in Division 2.5 of the CA Health and Safety Code, and Title 22, Division 9 of the CA Code of Regulations
- CVEMSA serves as the LEMSA for Mendocino and Sonoma counties, providing all LEMSA requirements on behalf of the counties
- The CVEMSA office is located in Santa Rosa



# Coastal Valleys EMS Agency Model

- Benefits:
  - Coordination and standardization of emergency response
  - Medical control and patient flow across the geographic area
  - Reduced administrative costs
- Risks:
  - Resources may not be equitably distributed between counties
  - Loss of local control
- Current annual contract costs = \$107,500
- Sr. Department Analyst will be hired by County to monitor contract deliverables, support coordination and improve local communication



# Join Another Regional LEMSA

- North Coast EMS Agency serves Del Norte, Humboldt, and Lake counties
  - North Coast's Main Office is Located in Eureka
- Northern California (Nor-Cal) EMS Agency serves Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Sierra, and Trinity counties
  - Nor-Cal's Main Office is Located in Redding
- These regional models would carry similar benefits and risks to the County as the CVEMSA Model
- If the Board is interested in pursuing this model, more information will be gathered to develop potential transition plans



# Join Another Regional LEMSA

- Benefits:
  - Coordination and standardization of emergency response, patient flow and oversight
  - Administrative costs would likely be less than single county system
- Risks:
  - Resources may not be equitably distributed between counties
  - Loss of local control
  - Hospital care and patient flow will be different than current system
- Current annual contract costs = \$107,500
- Sr. Department Analyst will be hired by County to monitor contract deliverables, support coordination and improve local communication





# Single County Model

- Mendocino County would assume statutory authority established in Division 2.5 of the CA Health and Safety Code, and Title 22, Division 9 of the CA Code of Regulations
- County would be responsible for all mandatory LEMSA roles
- Benefits
  - Local control of LEMSA resources
  - Provide localized services to meet partner needs
  - Full attention on local issues
- Risks
  - Will likely result in increased costs to the County General Fund
  - State EMS Authority has to ultimately approve

# Create a single county, Mendocino County LEMSA

- New positions would need to be created to meet LEMSA requirements, including the required EMS Administrator, EMS Medical Director, and EMS Specialist services and supports
- These unique LEMSA needs would result in new costs of approximately \$500,000 annually that would need to be covered by the County General Fund
- Timeline to create, recruit and hire positions is approximately six months
- Timeline to meet LEMSA requirements is approximately 9 – 12 months



# Summary of Financial Considerations

- Continue Coastal Valleys EMS Agency Model
  - New General Fund \$\$ requested: \$55,500
- Join another regional LEMSA
  - New General Fund \$\$ to be determined; initial estimate: \$55,500
- Create a single county, Mendocino County LEMSA
  - New General Fund \$\$ estimated at \$500,000 annually



# Recommended Action

- Provide direction to staff regarding the LEMSA model
- Recommend the creation and addition of three Mendocino County EMS positions to support LEMSA services
  - EMS Administrator
  - EMS Specialist
  - EMS Medical Director (part time or contracted)
  - Other program and administrative resources as necessary