

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670
(916) 322-4336 FAX (916) 322-1441



November 8, 2018

Mr. Jeff Fariss, Senior EMS Coordinator
Kern County EMS Agency
1800 Mount Vernon Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93306

Dear Mr. Farris:

This letter is in response to Kern County's 2018 EMS Plan Update submission to the EMS Authority on September 25, 2018.

I. Introduction and Summary:

The EMS Authority has concluded its review of Kern County's 2018 EMS Plan Update and is approving the plan as submitted.

II. History and Background:

Kern County received its last full plan approval for its 1994 plan submission, and its last annual plan update for its 2006 plan submission.

Historically, we have received EMS Plan submissions from Kern County for the following years:

- 1994
- 1999
- 2003
- 2006
- 2012
- 2015

Health and Safety Code (HSC) § 1797.254 states:

*"Local EMS agencies shall **annually** (emphasis added) submit an emergency medical services plan for the EMS area to the authority, according to EMS Systems, Standards, and Guidelines established by the authority".*

The EMS Authority is responsible for the review of EMS Plans and for making a determination on the approval or disapproval of the plan, based on compliance with

statute and the standards and guidelines established by the EMS Authority consistent with HSC § 1797.105(b).

III. Analysis of EMS System Components:

Following are comments related to Kern County's 2018 EMS Plan Update. Areas that indicate the plan submitted is concordant and consistent with applicable guidelines or regulations, HSC § 1797.254, and the EMS system components identified in HSC § 1797.103, are indicated below:

- | | Approved | Not Approved | |
|----|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| A. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>System Organization and Management</u> |
| B. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Staffing/Training</u> |
| C. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Communications</u> |
| D. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Response/Transportation</u> |

1. Ambulance Zones

- Based on the documentation provided, please find enclosed the EMS Authority's determination of the exclusivity of Kern County's ambulance zones.

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| E. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Facilities/Critical Care</u> |
| F. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Data Collection/System Evaluation</u> |
| G. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Public Information and Education</u> |
| H. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Disaster Medical Response</u> |

IV. Conclusion:

Based on the information identified, Kern County's 2018 EMS Plan Update is approved.

Pursuant to HSC § 1797.105(b):

"After the applicable guidelines or regulations are established by the Authority, a local EMS agency may implement a local plan...unless the Authority determines that the plan does not effectively meet the needs of

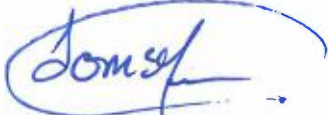
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the persons served and is not consistent with the coordinating activities in the geographical area served, or that the plan is not concordant and consistent with applicable guidelines or regulations, or both the guidelines and regulations established by the Authority."

V. Next Steps:

Kern County's next annual EMS Plan Update will be due on or before November 30, 2019. If you have any questions regarding the plan review, please contact Ms. Lisa Galindo, EMS Plans Coordinator, at (916) 431-3688.

Sincerely,



Tom McGinnis, EMT-P
Chief, EMS Systems Division

Enclosure



KERN COUNTY
Public Health Services
DEPARTMENT

MATTHEW CONSTANTINE
DIRECTOR

1800 MT. VERNON AVENUE

BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA, 93306-3302

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September 21, 2018

Dr. Howard Backer, MD, MPH, FACEP
Director, California EMS Authority
10901 Gold Center Drive, Suite 400
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

KERN COUNTY EMS PLAN SUBMISSION

Dear Dr. Backer:

In accordance with Section 1797.254 of the Health and Safety Code, please find enclosed Kern County EMS Division's EMS Plan Update for 2018.

If you have any questions or if you need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (661) 868-5216 or by email at farissj@kerncounty.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jeff Fariss', written over a large, stylized 'S' shape.

Jeff Fariss
Senior EMS Coordinator

September 21, 2018

2018 EMS Plan Update – Kern County

Kern County EMS Division is pleased to present the 2018 EMS Plan Update. The purpose of this notice is to provide a summary of the contents of the EMS Plan Update and highlight some of the work the Division has completed and is working toward in the near future.

2018 has been an exciting year that has brought many developments to our system. Among them was the hearing of the EMS appeal to the Emergency Medical Services Authority's denial of our EMS Plans that you heard previously. As a result Kern County EMS is now in the process of obtaining a Request For Proposal in order to return EOAs 1, 7, and 11 back to their Exclusive Operating Area status.

In May EMS hosted a Paramedic Update class, mandating that all accredited paramedics attend. It took a week to get all locally accredited paramedics through the class and up to date on all of the changes to policies, procedures and protocols.

Unfortunately, May was also the month in which we lost our longest serving Mayor, Harvey L. Hall. Shortly after his passing, the Vice President of Operations for Hall Ambulance Service Inc., contacted me and informed me that he had been receiving calls from ambulance companies throughout the state offering to send ambulances to assist during Mayor Halls' services. After receiving authorization from the regional RDMHC, CDPH, and EMSA, Kern County EMS approved the plan. More than 26 ambulances responded, some from great distances, on Saturday, June 2, to provide emergency response coverage to the greater Bakersfield area allowing Hall employees to attend the services. EMS worked with Hall Ambulance staff, Kern County Fire, Bakersfield City Fire, and BPD to assure that continuity of service to the community was maintained. To that end, EMS stood up our DOC, placing one staff member in Hall Ambulance's communication center (OCD), one staff member at the service with radio capability and 4 staff in our office monitoring the system. Each paramedic and EMT that entered our system from out of the area were granted a temporary local accreditation from Dr. Lyon allowing them to operate in our system. Hall Ambulance supplied them with radios and they were each directed to contact EMS 3 when preparing to transport in order to assure that each patient was transported to the appropriate hospital. This operation was well executed and resulted in no untoward occurrences.

In July, EMS personnel participated in the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment at the EOC to ensure that Kern County can apply for Homeland Security Grant Funding in 2019. This is the first time the county has been required to participate in this process.

On August 1st, just after 8pm, the division received an initial report of a possible active shooter inside Mercy S.W. hospital. EMS staff immediately responded with one staff member to the incident

command post and the remaining staff to EMS headquarters where we activated our DOC. We contacted all local hospitals advising of the possibility of patient surge and possible evacuation of Mercy S. W. hospital. We advised the EOC of the situation and sent a situation report to CDPH and EMSA. We continued to closely monitor the situation until the all clear was given at 2300hrs.

In 2018, EMS has experienced change and growth in that we have taken on both the Kern County Health Care Coalition (KCHCC) and the Kern Medical Reserve Corps (KMRC). KMRC is part of a nationwide team of volunteers established following 9-11 under the office of the U.S. Surgeon General. The membership of KMRC receive training, direction, and coordination in order to be prepared for disaster response. The Kern County Health Care Coalition establishes collaborative relationships with external healthcare entities that are involved in emergency planning and response in an effort to enhance preparedness. These entities include urgent cares, surgery clinics and doctor's offices. The addition of these two programs allows us to ensure that Kern County is prepared in the event of a large scale incident.

The effects of the fires in northern California reached Kern County as well in 2018. On Sunday, July 29th EMS received, through the MHOAC program, a request from the state for Public Health nurses to respond to Shasta County to provide care for people displaced and living in shelters. The Public Health Director was notified and the information was passed on to the nursing population here at public health. 4 nurses volunteered to travel to Shasta County to assist with the shelter operations. The nurses kept in close contact while they went about their assignments assisting the people of Shasta County. These nurses are to be commended on their willingness to sacrifice to help others.

EMS continues its efforts to teach the community hands only CPR, AED, and Stop the Bleed training. In 2018 so far, we have provided hands only cpr training at the North of the River Summer Plunge, the Community Partners Day in Golden Hills, Employers Training Resource, Kern county general services and the Kern County Cert Team.

The EMS Division continues focusing our attention on Identifying trends and opportunities to improve the health and safety of the community. As evidenced by the decrease in response times for the major metro areas following our implementation of the ALS to BLS Handoff Policy. In April of this year EMS implemented a new policy that allows crews to deliver patients that meet specific criteria to the triage nurse, in the waiting room, instead of waiting for a bed in the emergency room. The theory behind this policy is that the crews can offload the patients and become available faster than if they had gone through the traditional process. Additionally, we currently have three new policies that are open for public comment that will have a definite effect on our system. They are; Against Medical Advice, Paramedic Preceptor, and the Paramedic First Responder Policy.

First response is provided predominately through three (3) fire departments, and on limited availability the Sheriff's Office. Bakersfield City Fire Department provides BLS first response and maintains one station as an ALS technical rescue program. Kern County Fire Department provides BLS services and maintains one station in the Pine Mountain Club as an ALS level service. Both Bakersfield City Fire and Kern County Fire have submitted plans to implement a more robust ALS First Response

program. The ALS First Response policy that is currently open for public comment will provide the infrastructure for their plans. California City Fire Department provides ALS first responder services. All three fire departments also operate Fireline Paramedic programs. Kern County Fire Department and Kern County Sheriff's Office provide BLS rescue helicopter services. The Sheriff's Office also provides BLS services as part of Search and Rescue teams, training division, and SWAT team operations.

Kern has ten (10) general acute care hospitals that provide basic or stand-by emergency services. The following is a summary of the hospitals providing services pertaining to the EMS system:

San Joaquin Community Hospital – Bakersfield

- Basic Emergency Services
- Base Hospital
- STEMI Receiving Center
- Primary Stroke Center
- Level III Pediatric Receiving Center
- Case specific: cardiac, obstetrical, orthopedic, sexual assault

Mercy Hospital – Bakersfield

- Basic Emergency Services
- Base Hospital
- Primary Stroke Center
- Case specific: orthopedic

Mercy Southwest Hospital – Bakersfield

- Basic Emergency Services
- Base Hospital
- Primary Stroke Center
- Case specific: obstetrical, orthopedic

Bakersfield Memorial Hospital – Bakersfield

- Basic Emergency Services
- Base Hospital
- STEMI Receiving Center
- Primary Stroke Center
- Level II Pediatric Receiving Center
- Case specific: cardiac, obstetrical, orthopedic

Kern Medical – Bakersfield

- Basic Emergency Services
- Base Hospital

- Level II Trauma Center
- Primary Stroke Center
- Level II Pediatric Receiving Center
- Case specific: obstetrical, orthopedic

Bakersfield Heart Hospital – Bakersfield

- Basic Emergency Services
- Base Hospital
- STEMI Receiving Center
- Case specific: cardiac

Delano Regional Medical Center – Delano

- Basic Emergency Services
- Base Hospital
- Level IV Pediatric Receiving Center

Kern Valley Healthcare District – Mountain Mesa (Lake Isabella)

- Stand-by Emergency Services
- EMS Receiving Hospital

Tehachapi Hospital – Tehachapi

- Stand-by Emergency Services
- EMS Receiving Hospital

Ridgecrest Regional Hospital – Ridgecrest

- Basic Emergency Services
- Base Hospital
- Level IV Trauma Center
- Level III Pediatric Receiving Center

Moving forward, Kern County EMS is looking to implement the iGel, Superglottic Airway along with the Handtevy system for improving pediatric medication dosages. We are in the process of developing an RFP to return EOAs 1, 7, and 11 to exclusive status. Additionally, we are moving forward with fees for our EOA's and Hospitals in an effort maintain financial stability in the face of the sunset of the maddy fund.

TABLE 1: MINIMUM STANDARDS/RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES

A. SYSTEM ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

	Does not currently meet standard	Meets minimum standard	Meets recommended guidelines	Short-range plan	Long-range plan
Agency Administration:					
1.01 LEMSA Structure		X			
1.02 LEMSA Mission		X			
1.03 Public Input		X			
1.04 Medical Director		X	X		
Planning Activities:					
1.05 System Plan		X			
1.06 Annual Plan Update		X			
1.07 Trauma Planning*		X	X		
1.08 ALS Planning*		X			
1.09 Inventory of Resources		X			
1.10 Special Populations		X	X		
1.11 System Participants		X	X		
Regulatory Activities:					
1.12 Review & Monitoring		X			
1.13 Coordination		X			
1.14 Policy & Procedures Manual		X			
1.15 Compliance w/Policies		X			
System Finances:					
1.16 Funding Mechanism		X			
Medical Direction:					
1.17 Medical Direction*		X			
1.18 QA/QI		X	X		
1.19 Policies, Procedures, Protocols		X	X		

TABLE 1: MINIMUM STANDARDS/RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES

A. SYSTEM ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

		Does not currently meet standard	Meets minimum standard	Meets recommended guidelines	Short-range plan	Long-range plan
1.20	DNR Policy		X			
1.21	Determination of Death		X			
1.22	Reporting of Abuse		X			
1.23	Interfacility Transfer		X			
Enhanced Level: Advanced Life Support						
1.24	ALS Systems		X	X		
1.25	On-Line Medical Direction		X	X		
Enhanced Level: Trauma Care System:						
1.26	Trauma System Plan		X			
Enhanced Level: Pediatric Emergency Medical and Critical Care System:						
1.27	Pediatric System Plan		X			
Enhanced Level: Exclusive Operating Areas:						
1.28	EOA Plan		X			

TABLE 1: MINIMUM STANDARDS/RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES

B. STAFFING/TRAINING

		Does not currently meet standard	Meets minimum standard	Meets recommended guidelines	Short-range plan	Long-range plan
Local EMS Agency:						
2.01	Assessment of Needs		X			
2.02	Approval of Training		X			
2.03	Personnel		X			
Dispatchers:						
2.04	Dispatch Training		X	X		
First Responders (non-transporting):						
2.05	First Responder Training		X	X		
2.06	Response		X			
2.07	Medical Control		X			
Transporting Personnel:						
2.08	EMT-I Training		X	X		
Hospital:						
2.09	CPR Training		X			
2.10	Advanced Life Support		X			
Enhanced Level: Advanced Life Support:						
2.11	Accreditation Process		X			
2.12	Early Defibrillation		X			
2.13	Base Hospital Personnel		X			