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ADMINISTRATIVE BULLETIN

No. 21-BUL-009

To: Contra Costa County EMS Providers

FROM: Marshall Bennett, EMS Director 

DATE: August 20, 2021

SUBJECT: 2021 Ambulance Ordinance Public Comment

The Contra Costa County Emergency Medical Services Agency (“Agency”) has released the proposed 2021 revision to the Contra Costa County Ambulance Ordinance Code for public comment. In addition to substantive changes, the proposed revision changes the title of the current “Ambulance Ordinance Code” to the “Emergency Medical Services and Ambulance Ordinance Code.”

The County’s current ambulance ordinance version is over 37 years old. It was first created and adopted in 1977 and last updated in 1984. The revisions and update are intended to address the evolution of EMS, changes in EMS practice, provide for the enhancement of patient and provider safety, and provide the oversight of EMS consistent with current industry standards.

There are many proposed substantive changes to the ambulance ordinance. Among the changes is the addition of a special event standby requirement that would require designated special events to have EMS services readily available. The requirement would also mandate that special event EMS service providers are authorized Contra Costa County EMS service provider(s) or obtain a special event standby service permit to provide EMS service at designated events.

Other changes include additional requirements for ambulances that would increase patient and provider safety, requirements for clinical quality assurance and improvement, changes to the application process to require a Live Scan background investigation of ambulance owners, and changes to the nomenclature that would replace “ambulance permit” with “certificate of operation.” In addition, the process for placing an ambulance certificate of operation on probation, or suspending or revoking an ambulance certificate of operation, has been substantially changed to provide a transparent appeal process. A process for the

reinstatement of an ambulance permit after suspension or revocation was also added. This is only a summary of the proposed changes.

The Agency received initial stakeholder comment from the County's fire departments in early 2021. The Agency made some revisions to the proposed ambulance ordinance based on these comments. The revisions are indicated by the tracked changes in the proposed revised ambulance ordinance.

The Agency welcomes public feedback on the proposed changes. All public comments must be submitted using the online public comment form no later than **September 3, 2021** at 5:00 p.m. Details on all of the proposed ambulance ordinance, the revisions from the public comments from the County's fire departments, and the public comment form can be found by visiting the Agency website at <https://cchealth.org/ems/public-comment.php>. Please note that a separate public comment must be entered into the online public comment form for each section or subsection of the proposed ambulance ordinance.

After the Agency receives public comment, it will evaluate making further revisions to the proposed ambulance ordinance. The final version of the ordinance with any additional revisions will be provided to the County Administrator with a request that it be approved to be placed on the agenda for the Board of Supervisors to adopt as the County's new Ambulance and Emergency Medical Services Ordinance. There is not a date scheduled for providing the proposed revision to the ambulance ordinance to the County Administrator or the Board of Supervisors.

Questions regarding this bulletin or the ambulance ordinance should be directed to the Director of the Emergency Medical Services Agency at Marshall.Bennett@cchealth.org.

