



February 16, 2018

Carmel Angelo  
Chief Executive Officer  
County of Mendocino  
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010  
Ukiah, CA 95482

RE: Mendocino County contract with CVEMSA

Dear Ms. Angelo,

Coast Life Support District is a rural bi-county special district ambulance provider for the southwest portion of Mendocino County and northwest area of Sonoma County. We are stakeholders in the EMS systems of both jurisdictions. I am writing today to offer provider feedback while you are considering continuance of your contract with Coastal Valleys Emergency Medical Services Agency (CVEMSA).

CVEMSA's primary role is establishing EMS Medical Controls both as the Local Emergency Services Agency (LEMSA) and approved by the state EMS authority. They establish protocols driving a continual quality assurance and improvement process on evidence-based research and patient outcomes. Here at CLSD, we have several expanded scope of practice protocols because of our frequent two-hour transports to hospitals out of our district. Our urban counterparts would not utilize them with short transports. Establishing a new LEMSA, with their own county-specific set of controls, creates numerous challenges (e.g., staff training, medications stocked on ambulances, potentially differing scope of practice, etc.).

We do not have a hospital within our District. Redwood Coast Medical Services (RCMS), is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that provides Urgent Care and Primary Care. They have been designated by CVEMSA as an "Alternative EMS Receiving Facility" because the use of a hospital having a basic emergency medical service special permit is precluded because of geographic circumstances. As a result, we can transport some patients locally. This keeps our Paramedics and EMTs in the district rather than requiring multiple-hour transports to out-of-district hospitals. This designation has been provided by CVEMSA through Mendocino County. It is critical we keep this designation.

CVEMSA hosts Image Trend, the electronic Patient Care Record system (ePCR) that meets mandatory federal data capture, reporting and aggregation. It will import data from CAD systems to speed documentation, send ePCRs electronically to receiving emergency



departments, submit billing-ready PCRs and receive patient outcomes from participating hospitals. CVEMSA also provides free Image Trend tech support. Reestablishing this system would be a costly and complex undertaking for a new LEMSA.

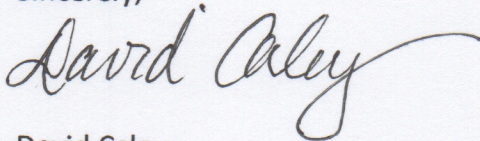
CVEMSA also is the county EMT certifying entity. They maintain an EMT State Training Program Registry; perform DOJ/FBI background checks; provide confidential access to DOJ records; conduct investigation and EMT disciplinary processes in accordance to CA and Government Codes; and issue EMT cards as a result of the credentialing process. They also provide EMS Continuing Education reflective of protocol changes and recertification requirements.

CVEMSA also approves our regional EMS Training Program through Mendocino County Office of Education. This provides a local training program for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), Emergency Medical Responders (EMR), and biennial EMT Refresher training. This training program funnels EMTs into our local Fire Protection Districts, Volunteer Fire Departments, State Parks and Lifeguard services, as well as career paths into CLSD. These First Responder agencies are a critical safety net of our EMS system as they are frequently first on scene and providing crucial medical services while our ambulances are en route.

CVEMSA provides a variety of other services such as: oversight regarding base hospital agreements (receive ambulances and providing medical direction to field providers), trauma system coordination, stroke and STEMI contracts and programs. They also assure ambulance services qualify for reimbursement.

We have been informed that CVEMSA's response to the recent multi-county fires was less than desired. We should recognize this as an opportunity to improve. I don't believe the EMS systems of Sonoma County and Southern CA will go forward with the status quo prior to these disasters. As such, I would encourage Mendocino County conduct a thorough evaluation of your relationship with CVEMSA appreciating what is working while identifying areas for improvement. Then consider renegotiating the contract based on this assessment. I believe implementing identified and mutually agreed upon improvements would be vastly more efficient and effective than to establish a new LEMSA.

Sincerely,



David Caley  
District Administrator  
Coast Life Support District

Cc: Supervisor Carre Brown  
Supervisor John McCowen  
Supervisor Georgeanne Croskey  
Supervisor Dan Gjerde  
Supervisor Dan Hamburg  
Bryan Cleaver, CVEMSA