

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

562



FROM: Community Health Agency/Public Health

SUBMITTAL DATE:

May 11, 2004

SUBJECT: EMS Agency Interim Ambulance Diversion Policy

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Receive and File the Interim Ambulance Diversion Policy; and
- 2) Direct the EMS Agency to distribute the interim policy to hospitals, ambulance providers, and all other interested parties for implementation

BACKGROUND: On June 18, 2002 Agenda item 3.72, the Board of Supervisors directed staff to study Emergency Department (ED) wait times and overcrowding. Staff was also directed to utilize the Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC) in an advisory capacity for the study. In July 2002 a Steering Committee of stake holder representatives was formed to make recommendations and address this directive. The Steering Committee commissioned The Abaris Group to conduct a comprehensive review and make recommendations to alleviate ED overcrowding and wait times in Riverside County.

(continued on page 2)

Susan D. Harrington

Susan D. Harrington, Director

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------|-------------------------|---|
| FINANCIAL DATA | Current F.Y. Total Cost: | \$ 0 | In Current Year Budget: | N/A |
| | Current F.Y. Net County Cost: | \$ 0 | Budget Adjustment: | N/A |
| | Annual Net County Cost: | \$ 0 | For Fiscal Year: | N/A |
| SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A | | | | Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | | | Requires 4/5 Vote <input type="checkbox"/> |

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

County Executive Office Signature

Dan Marting

Dep't Recomm.: Consent Policy Policy
Per Exec. Ofc.: Consent Policy Policy

Prev. Agn. Ref.: 3.72 DATE 06/18/02
3.15 DATE 01/13/04

District: All

Agenda Number:

051104A

**ATTACHMENTS FILED
WITH THE CLERK OF THE BOARD**

3.5

FROM: Community Health Agency/Public Health
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BACKGROUND CONTINUED:

On January 13, 2004 Agenda item 3.15, the Board of Supervisors received the report completed by The Abaris Group and directed staff to hold a "Summit" with Chief Executive Officers and Administrators from hospitals throughout Riverside County within 60 days. In addition, the Board of Supervisors requested an ambulance diversion policy that formalized the existing practice and was applied county-wide.

The Inland Empire Hospital Summit was held at Riverside County Regional Medical Center on April 7, 2004, and was attended by 41 representatives from hospitals throughout Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, public health administrators and staff from Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, and the Hospital Association of Southern California (HASC).

The Summit covered a range of topics including: the "definition" of the problem, what the hospitals can do to alleviate the problem, a panel discussion of successful and unsuccessful implementation strategies, current diversion practices and a plan for future steps.

During the ambulance diversion policy discussion, HASC and the hospital administrators voiced concerns over the implementation of a final diversion policy being implemented without having the opportunity to provide input in its development. Concerns were also expressed over the possibility of a "county-wide" application of the policy that may not address the unique challenges faced in different areas of the county.

The EMS Agency agreed to implement an interim ambulance diversion policy that combines the existing diversion policy and current practices regarding diversion. The EMS Agency will facilitate future meetings including all stakeholders to develop a final diversion policy. HASC and the administrators agreed to work together with the EMS Agency and provider agencies to develop a policy that meets the needs of both groups.

The interim ambulance diversion policy addresses the immediate need of diverting ambulances to the most available and appropriate emergency department to treat patients. The interim policy has a sunset date of November 30, 2004.

In May, 2004, the EMS Agency and HASC will convene a taskforce of stakeholders to develop a final ambulance diversion policy. The final policy will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for consideration by November 30, 2004.