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SERVING BUTTE, COLUSA, GLENN, NEVADA, PLACER, SHASTA, SISKIYOU, SUTTER, TEHAMA & YUBA COUNTIES

August 8, 2023

Bri Nathaniel, P30647
Professor/Clinical Coordinator
Department Chair of Health Sciences
Sierra College
Health Sciences EMS Program

Re: Sierra College Paramedic Training Program Letter of Support

Dear Ms. Nathaniel

The Sierra – Sacramento Valley EMS Agency (S-SV EMS) is the legally designated local EMS agency (LEMSA) for Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Nevada, Placer, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, and Yuba counties.

- Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, § 1797.204:

The local EMS agency shall plan, implement, and evaluate an emergency medical services system, in accordance with the provisions of this part, consisting of an organized pattern of readiness and response services based on public and private agreements and operational procedures.

- Further, pursuant to California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, § 1797.206:

The local EMS agency shall be responsible for implementation of advanced life support systems and limited advanced life support systems and for the monitoring of training programs.

- Further, pursuant to California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, § 1797.208:

The local EMS agency shall be responsible for determining that the operation of training programs at the EMT-I, EMT-II, and EMT-P levels are in compliance with this division and shall approve the training programs if they are found to be in compliance with this division. The training program at the California Highway Patrol Academy shall be exempt from the provisions of this section.

- Further, pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Chapter 4, § 100137:

(a) “Paramedic training program approving authority” means an agency or person authorized by this Chapter to approve a Paramedic training program and/or a Critical Care Paramedic (CCP) training program, as follows:

(1) A paramedic training program and/or a CCP training program conducted by a qualified statewide public safety agency shall be approved by the director of the Authority.

(2) Any other paramedic training program and/or a CCP training program not included in subsection (1) shall be approved by the local EMS agency (LEMSA) that has jurisdiction in the county where the training program is located.

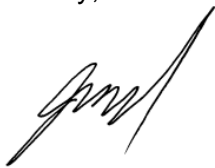
As indicated by multiple recent media reports, there are ongoing paramedic staffing shortages in many areas of California, including some areas of the S-SV EMS region. S-SV EMS staff provided the S-SV EMS JPA Board with an update related to these staffing shortages earlier this year, and subsequently surveyed the three (3) S-SV EMS approved paramedic training programs related to their current program and enrollment processes. Copies of these documents are attached to this letter for your information.

As indicated by these documents, there continues to be a significant need for additional paramedic training programs/student capacity in the S-SV EMS region, including Placer County, Nevada County, and surrounding counties. As such S-SV EMS is fully supportive of Sierra College developing/ implementing a paramedic training program, and S-SV EMS staff are willing to assist in this matter to the extent possible and appropriate.

The possibility of Sierra College developing/implementing a paramedic training program was also discussed during the May 2023 S-SV EMS JPA Board meeting and the S-SV EMS JPA Board was supportive of this matter.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



John Poland, Paramedic
Regional Executive Director
Sierra – Sacramento Valley EMS Agency

JIM HOLMES
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S-SV EMS JPA Governing Board Staff Report

MEETING DATE: January 27, 2023
ITEM #: G-3
SUBJECT: EMS System Situation Status Updates
PRESENTER: John Poland, Regional Executive Director

Introduction:

The purpose of this staff report is to provide an S-SV EMS system situation status update.

Background & Relevant Information:

There have been significant EMS system challenges across the S-SV EMS region and throughout many areas of California and other states over the past few years. A considerable number of workers have left the healthcare field due to the COVID-19 pandemic and various other factors. Data indicates an approx. 20% decrease in the total number of healthcare workers in California over this time, with no equivalent decrease of individuals needing healthcare services. The COVID-19 pandemic has also impacted the ability to train new healthcare workers, including EMS personnel. These factors have affected all aspects of the healthcare system, including acute care hospitals and EMS providers.

Additionally, multiple overlapping public health emergencies (large wildfire events, COVID-19, flu, RSV, mpox, Ebola, etc.) have resulted in persistent unprecedented medical/health system impacts. As shown in the attached EMS system data summaries, some areas/providers have been impacted more than others. The following are some of the recent examples of local EMS system impacts:

- The Burney Fire Protection District Ambulance has been out of service approx. 20% of the time over the past 12 months due to staffing shortages and other factors. The Burney Fire Protection District has also recently notified S-SV EMS that they will no longer respond their ambulance outside their district boundaries (other than MCI and mutual aid type incidents) due to ongoing staffing issues and other factors. S-SV EMS was notified by the Burney Fire Protection District on 1/20/2023 that they have recently hired an S-SV EMS accredited paramedic.

- Sierra Medical Services Alliance (SEMSA) in the Fall River Mills area of Shasta County provided notice to Mayers Memorial Hospital District on December 27, 2022 that they would be terminating their agreement to provide ambulance services to that area. The notice indicated that SEMSA will cease providing ambulance services on June 25, 2023.
- S-SV EMS recently received the following notification from the NorCal EMS Agency related to the Chester Fire Department in neighboring Plumas County:

We were just informed that Chester Fire Department is apparently in dire straits regarding staffing, they will be unable to staff their ambulance the next 2 days (December 29 and 30). Then will have some mild staffing for the first two weeks of January. Following that, they may be unable to staff any response vehicle for the remainder of January.

I ask that you inform Butte and Tehama County EMS response areas to not be shocked if they are requested deeper into the Chester response area during these times.

- S-SV EMS has authorized the utilization of BLS ambulances to support the 911 systems in Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, and Yuba counties, due to ongoing shortages of paramedic personnel.

S-SV EMS staff have worked with multiple medical/health system entities to maintain the integrity of the EMS system and protect the public health and safety of individuals throughout the S-SV EMS region. Some of these previous and ongoing measures include:

- Providing significant Regional Disaster Medical Health Coordinator/Specialist (RDMHC/S) support/assistance to S-SV EMS member counties and other counties in CA OES Region III.
- Providing Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC) support/assistance to S-SV EMS member counties.
- Allowing EMS personnel certification, accreditation, and authorization exemptions/waivers, as permitted by applicable local and statewide emergency declarations.
- Providing additional EMS personnel accreditation/authorization formats and opportunities.
- Working with multiple S-SV EMS authorized EMS training programs to ensure adequate EMS personnel training opportunities.
- Hosting/maintaining a robust online learning management system (LMS) that provides no cost EMS and RN continuing education opportunities. The S-SV EMS LMS has provided thousands of continuing education unit hours to 4000+ EMS personnel over the past several years.
- Providing online opioid overdose naloxone administration training to 1500+ public safety and school employees over the past several years.
- Providing several in-person continuing education/training opportunities to multiple prehospital and hospital EMS system participants over the past several years.

- Providing a significant amount of EMS system data to multiple entities to monitor and report on EMS system performance/impacts, identify areas of concern, and implement appropriate measures to ensure the ongoing provision of quality EMS care.
- Allowing EMS provider contract variances/exemptions, as appropriate/necessary and consistent with applicable local and statewide emergency declarations. This includes the utilization of BLS (EMT) staffed 911 ambulances to support and maintain the integrity of the 911 EMS transport system.

S-SV EMS appreciates the service that EMS system participants throughout our region provide on an ongoing basis, especially during these challenging times. S-SV EMS staff will continue to monitor the EMS and medical/health systems throughout our region, and provide additional consultation, support, and assistance as necessary/appropriate.

Action Requested:

Accept for information.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Attachments:

- S-SV EMS Region 911 Transport Provider Staffing Report (December 2022).

S-SV EMS Region 911 Transport Provider Staffing (December 2022)

| County/Provider | Fully Staffed | | | | Current Staffing | | | | Staffing Shortage | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-------|-----------|-------|------------------|-------|-----------|-------|-------------------|-------|-----------|-------|
| | Full Time | | Part Time | | Full Time | | Part Time | | Full Time | | Part Time | |
| Butte County | EMT | MEDIC | EMT | MEDIC | EMT | MEDIC | EMT | MEDIC | EMT | MEDIC | EMT | MEDIC |
| BCEMS | 46 | 46 | 50 | 35 | 42 | 42 | 44 | 33 | -4 | -4 | -6 | -2 |
| Colusa County | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Enloe Ambulance | 3 | 3 | NA | NA | 3 | 3 | NA | NA | 0 | 0 | NA | NA |
| Glenn County | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Enloe Ambulance | 3 | 3 | NA | NA | 3 | 3 | NA | NA | 0 | 0 | NA | NA |
| Westside Ambulance | 0 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 0 | -1 | 0 | 0 |
| Nevada County | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Penn Valley Fire | 3 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sierra Nevada Ambulance | 16 | 16 | 12 | 12 | 16 | 16 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 0 | -3 | -3 |
| Truckee Fire | 0 | 36 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 36 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Placer County | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AMR - Placer | 50 | 49 | 95 | 42 | 51 | 51 | 95 | 42 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Foresthill Fire | 3 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | -4 | 1 | -2 |
| North Tahoe Fire | 4 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South Placer Fire | 15 | 33 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 33 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Shasta County | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AMR - Shasta | 28 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 26 | 22 | 16 | 7 | -2 | 2 | 6 | -3 |
| Burney Fire | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SEMSA | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | -2 | 0 | -1 |
| Mercy Redding Ambulance | 15 | 15 | 8 | 8 | 11 | 14 | 8 | 6 | -4 | -1 | 0 | -2 |
| Siskiyou County | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Butte Valley Ambulance | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -3 | 0 |
| Etna Ambulance | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Happy Camp Ambulance | 2 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| McCloud Fire | 0 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mt. Shasta Ambulance | 10 | 12 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 9 | 21 | 12 | 0 | -3 | 11 | 7 |
| Tehama County | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| St. Elizabeth Ambulance | 16 | 16 | 9 | 6 | 16 | 16 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Yuba/Sutter Counties | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beale AFB | 5 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bi County Ambulance | 26 | 27 | 20 | 15 | 33 | 14 | 29 | 8 | 7 | -13 | 9 | -7 |
| S-SV EMS Region Total: | 248 | 323 | 234 | 152 | 246 | 299 | 249 | 142 | -16 | -30 | -10 | -32 |

S-SV EMS Approved Paramedic Training Program Student/Enrollment Survey - January 2023

| Question | Butte College Paramedic Program | NCTI - Roseville Paramedic Program | College of the Siskiyous Paramedic Program |
|---|--|--|--|
| How many cohorts do you have each year? | One (1) - Starting in August. | Three (3) - Starting at various times throughout the year. | Two (2) - One (1) in Weed and one (1) in Mendocino (satellite) |
| Is there any discussion/interest in expanding the number of classes? | We have discussed expansion of our program to 2 cohorts per year, but have decided against it. The primary reason was the access to clinical sites and the availability of qualified/quality preceptors for the capstone internship. | We are in talks with San Joaquin EMS and San Joaquin AMR regarding a satellite in that County. | We added one (1) satellite at Mendocino. Shasta College was interested in becoming a satellite as well, but over 50% of our students come from Redding or South so it would greatly impact our enrollment at our main campus. We currently do not have a waitlist and can enroll all those interested. |
| How many students do you enroll in each cohort? | 24 | 36 | Usually 25-30 each year, but this year it was down, we enrolled less than 20 in both programs. This may be a nationwide issue. |
| How many students generally complete each cohort? Has this significantly changed over the past few years? | Over the last 6 years, we have had an increasing amount of attrition, partly due to COVID the last 3+ years, and the other is that our program has removed some of the entry requirements (specifically no A&P). From 2016 to 2022, we have started with a total of 129 students, with each of the last 5 years starting with 24. Of those 129, 100 went on to the clinical/internship of the program. Of the 100 that completed the internship, 93 took the NREMT exam. 92 of the 93 passed. Of the 29 students that did not move onto the clinical/internship, 11 of them quit for personal reasons, including taking jobs as firefighters. So, our real retention numbers would be closer to 100/118 (84.7%), vs 100/129 (77.5%). | Anywhere from 27-34. We had a significant attrition in 1 cohort over COVID, with several withdrawals for students going to fire academies or for personal reasons. | Usually 16-25 complete the program. This has improved over the past couple of years. |

S-SV EMS Approved Paramedic Training Program Student/Enrollment Survey - January 2023

| Question | Butte College Paramedic Program | NCTI - Roseville Paramedic Program | College of the Siskiyous Paramedic Program |
|--|---|--|---|
| Do you routinely have more applicants than enrollment spots available? | We usually have more applicants than available spots. If there are more than 24 applicants that meet the minimum requirements, they go into a lottery system. If they did not get into the class because of too many applicants, they can apply the following year, and they are in a different pool, where we reserve 18 spots for 2nd time applicants. If there are more than 18 applicants that are reapplying, they are in a random selection. The other 6 spots are for 1st time applicants. The waitlist is based on the time that they submit their application, as long as they are qualified. The past few years we have had a large waitlist, with up to 40 to 50 applicants. | Yes, we are back to pre-Covid application levels with anywhere from 48-56 applications for 36 spots. | Not currently. We are able to enroll all applicants that want a spot. |
| What is your current enrollment process? | We only have preferences for the 2nd time applicants. We do not have preferences for local or military or previous experience. We are looking at setting a minimum cut score to meet requirements by taking an entrance exam through Fisdap or Platinum Planner. Both of these entities have data to support the validity of their tests and scores. | Entrance exam and interview process put into a grading scale. The top 36 are offered spots in the program. | We do not need to prioritize, all students who meet the qualifications are enrolled. |
| Is there any interest in establishing an AEMT training program? | No | No | We have had discussions about this and some interest. We get a few requests per year about our AEMT program, but not enough to make a class or go through the process to reestablish the program. |