



Community Paramedic Pilot Project (Gilroy Fire)

Effective: April 23, 2018
Replaces: New
Review: November 1, 2020

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the role and responsibilities of the Community Paramedic behavioral health/sobriety center pilot project.

II. Policy

- A. The Santa Clara County Community Paramedic Pilot Project must adhere to guidelines established by the State EMS Authority and the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD).
- B. The Santa Clara County EMS Agency's (EMS Agency) planned project was reviewed by the Institutional Review Board (IRB).
- C. The EMS Agency Medical Director will act as the principal investigator and has primary responsibility for medical control.
- D. The steering committee will be tasked to monitor as well as provide feedback and direction for any program issues that may arise. This increase in medical control and oversight will be necessary to ensure patient safety and quality improvement.
 - 1. The local steering committee shall work in collaboration with the State EMS Authority Project Manager and Independent Evaluator.
 - 2. The Steering Committee will include a representative from the following agencies:
 - a. Santa Clara County EMS Agency
 - b. Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Services
 - c. Gilroy Fire Department
 - d. Gilroy Police Department
 - e. County EOA Emergency Ambulance Service Provider
 - f. Saint Louise Hospital
- E. Paramedic Eligibility
 - 1. Candidates will have a minimum of 4 years of ALS experience.



2. Candidates will be endorsed by the EMS Agency Medical Director and by their Employer.
- C. Training
1. The Community Paramedic candidates must successfully complete the following additional training:
 - a. Core Curriculum provided by the EMS Agency
 - b. Crisis Intervention Training
 - c. Advanced clinical assessment
 - d. Local policy/procedure training and evaluation
- D. Quality Improvement and Data Collection
1. All patients evaluated by the Community Paramedic for referral will be documented on the Patient Care Record (PCR).
 2. Specific behavioral health fields will be added to the PCR. These fields include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Reasons for law enforcement placement of §5150.
 - (1) From §5150 form which probable cause category was assigned to the patient:
 - Danger to self
 - Danger to others
 - Gravely disabled
 - (2) Patient destination requested by law enforcement agency
 - (3) Circumstances leading to law enforcement encounter
 - (4) Circumstances leading to law enforcement §5150 hold placement
 - (5) Was the §5150 written before fire department/ambulance arrival on scene?
 - (6) Was the patient in restraints before fire department/ambulance arrived on scene?
 - (7) Did law enforcement accompany the patient with the ambulance?
 - (8) Has law enforcement encountered this patient before?



- (9) Did the fire department/ambulance encounter this patient at law enforcement facility/jail?
 - (10) Is the patient known to be:
 - Homeless
 - Chronic inebriate
 - Drug user
 - Regular caller to 911
 - Under treatment for behavioral disorder/mental illness
 3. All cases referred to Behavioral Health Services will be audited for appropriateness of referral.
 4. Any patient who is referred to Behavioral Health Services and later transferred to an emergency department within six (6) hours will be audited, tracked and trended.
 5. Evaluation components will include a process evaluation, qualitative evaluation, impact evaluation, utilization, and an estimate of healthcare cost savings.
 6. All data shall be collected and shared electronically.
 7. Monthly reports will be developed and maintained by the EMS Agency.
 8. Monthly reports shall be available for review by the local steering committee, independent evaluators, and the State Advisory Committee through the State EMS Authority's Project Manager.
- E. Patient Safety
1. The pilot project may be stopped or amended during the study period by the EMS Agency Medical Director if it is determined that included study patients may be at risk.