AGENDA COVER MEMO

Memorandum Date: January 16, 2025

Meeting Date: January 28, 2025

TO: Lane County Board of Commissioners

PRESENTED BY: Eve Gray, Health and Human Services Director

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Update on Lane County Emergency Medical Services Taskforce

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I. MOTION

None: Presentation Only.

II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Update to the Board from Health and Human Services Director Eve Gray on the status of the EMS taskforce, including progress of work since October, taskforce membership assembly, and timeline adjustments based upon feedback from stakeholders.

III. BACKGROUND/IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION

A. Board Action and Other History

The Board is responsible for assigning Ambulance Providers in line with Lane Code Chapter 18 for the geographic sections of the county known as Ambulance Service Areas. A subcommittee of the Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC) meets quarterly to review quality assurance data submitted by providers. Updates to Chapter 18 are currently in progress, incorporating feedback from providers and compliance/definition updates recommended by the Oregon Health Authority.

At the Board meeting 10.22.2024, the Board heard from Health and Human Services Director Eve Gray, Eugene-Springfield Fire Chief Mike Caven and Oakridge Mayor Bryan Cutchen about the service provision and funding challenges facing Lane County EMS providers. The Board gave approval for the Health and Human Services Department to proceed with assembling personnel from county EMS providers and jurisdictions to join an EMS task force, in line with the model of the previously assembled Joint Elected Officials Ambulance Taskforce in October 2011. Once the membership is confirmed the Board may move to formally create the task force and

set out the timeline for said task force to investigate solutions and provide recommendations to the Board and other local jurisdictions.

B. Policy Issues

No new policy issues, presentation only.

C. Board Goals

N/A

D. Financial and/or Resource Considerations

N/A

E. Health Implications

N/A

F. Analysis

No new analysis, presentation only.

IV. Alternatives/Options

N/A

V. RECOMMENDATION

N/A

VI. ATTACHMENTS

EMS Funding Challenges Update

JANUARY 28, 2025

Background

Update from October 22 meeting

- Board authorized staff on 10/22 to begin work to form a task force
- Oakridge EMS was verging on collapse
- All EMS providers in Lane County face funding challenges
- Funding challenges stem from limitations on reimbursement from Medicare & Medicaid

County Responsibility

The county is responsible for identifying ambulance service areas and contracting with ambulance services

Oversight of ambulance services is a core function of the Lane County Board of Commissioners, with assistance from the Director of Health & Human Services

Should any part of the local ambulance system fail, Lane County will be responsible for identifying an alternative

Work Completed Since October

- All five Lane County fire chiefs will participate
- Three of five fire chiefs have confirmed members
- Facilitator chosen for task force

Concerns

- Springfield & Eugene have a current joint elected task force related to their consolidation
- Discussion of countywide solution prior to a decision on Eugene/Springfield Fire & EMS
- Ability of elected officials to participate in two task forces
- Municipal role in a countywide solution

Oakridge

In December 2024 the Lane Community Health Council Authorized $400,000 for Oakridge Fire & EMS

- Funding will stabilize Oakridge for FY 25 and part of FY 26
- Oakridge agreed to a delay of the task force until June 2025

H&HS continues to work with community partners to identify temporary funding for Oakridge

Recommendation

- Begin task force in June 2025
- First 3 months background & current state analysis
- Brenda Moore will facilitate for continuity between municipal & county work at no additional cost to the county
- Solutions will be discussed in the context of municipal agreements

Process Points

What We Are Asking Today

- Feedback on recommended plans
- Approval to delay start of the Joint Elected Task Force

Next Steps

- Monitor state & federal activity regarding EMS funding
- Finish recruiting task force members
- Return to Board of Commissioners in April or May with recommended task force members

Questions?