



RESOLUTION NO. 144-2023

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF EL DORADO

WHEREAS, the County of El Dorado (“County”) provides pre-hospital, ground emergency medical transportation (“GEMT”) ambulance services through County Services Areas No 3. And No. 7, and

WHEREAS, a portion of the ambulance patients served by the County are Medi-Cal beneficiaries, whose ambulance fees are funded by the Federal Medicaid program, and

WHEREAS, Medi-Cal reimbursements are historically less than the actual cost of providing services, resulting in systemic funding shortages among GEMT providers, and

WHEREAS, in order to address this funding shortfall, the California Department of Health Care Services (“DHCS”) has operated the GEMT Supplemental Reimbursement Certified Public Expenditure program since 2011 pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 14105, providing additional federal Medicaid funding to eligible governmental entities that provide GEMT services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries, and

WHEREAS, to further address the funding shortfall, DHCS has operated the GEMT Quality Assurance Fee program since 2018 pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 14129, providing supplemental Medi-Cal payments to GEMT providers, funded by a fee imposed on emergency medical transports, and

WHEREAS, the County has participated in both the GEMT Supplemental Reimbursement Certified Public Expenditure program and the GEMT Quality Assurance Fee programs, and has received supplemental revenue under both programs, and

WHEREAS, while the aforementioned programs provide financial support to GEMT providers, a systemic funding shortfall persists, and

WHEREAS, in an attempt to further address the discrepancy in costs for public agencies to provide GEMT services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries and the reimbursement rate provided by Medi-Cal, public providers of GEMT services promoted the adoption and implementation of an additional GEMT supplemental reimbursement program, and

WHEREAS, passed as a result of said efforts, Assembly Bill No. 1705 of 2019 amended Welfare and Institutions Code Section 14105.94 to establish the Public Provider Ground Emergency Medical Transport (“PP-GEMT”) Intergovernmental Transfer (“IGT”) Program, which went into effect on January 1, 2023, and

WHEREAS, so long as the PP-GEMT program is active, the prior GEMT Supplemental Reimbursement Certified Public Expenditure and GEMT Quality Assurance Fee programs are superseded and suspended by the PP-GEMT program for public agencies, and

WHEREAS, the PP-GEMT program will provide the supplemental reimbursements to eligible public GEMT providers for services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries through the implementation of an add-on reimbursement for all Medi-Cal Fee For Service reimbursements and a rating increment for contracted Medi-Cal plans, resulting in an increase in reimbursement rates for all ambulance services billed to Medi-Cal payors for eligible public GEMT providers, and

WHEREAS, unlike the prior GEMT supplemental reimbursement programs, the PP-GEMT program will apply to both fee-for-service Medi-Cal services and Medi-Cal HMOs, which constitute the majority of the County's GEMT patients, while the prior GEMT programs only covered fee-for-services patients, resulting in higher total reimbursements, and

WHEREAS, the program is designed and intended to increase Federal funding to California public agency GEMT providers without increasing net costs to the State of California's General Fund, and

WHEREAS, the reimbursements received under the PP-GEMT program are funded approximately 50% by Federal Medicaid funds and approximately 50% by DHCS, and

WHEREAS, in order to prevent the program from having impact on the State's General Fund, the public agency GEMT providers who benefit from the program are authorized and requested to make voluntary intergovernmental transfers to DHCS to fund the program, as authorized by Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 14164, and

WHEREAS, if the transfers from public agencies do not fully fund the non-Federal portion of the PP-GEMT program, DHCS is required to terminate the program, and

WHEREAS, if all public agency GEMT providers who benefit from the program elect to make intergovernment transfers to DHCS, then the cost to all of the agencies will be approximately 50% of the total reimbursements, plus administrative costs; however, for each public agency GEMT provider who declines to make transfers to DHCS, the total costs borne by all other providers will increase, and

WHEREAS, California statewide fire and emergency medical services organizations strongly encourage the financial participation of all public agencies to ensure the survivability of the programs and an equitable sharing of costs, and

WHEREAS, the El Dorado County Fire Chiefs' Association (representing all El Dorado County fire chiefs), El Dorado County Emergency Services Authority (West Slope ambulance JPA), and California Tahoe Emergency Services Operations Authority (East Slope ambulance JPA) all support the County's electing to participate as a funding provider,

WHEREAS, the County benefits from the increased revenue received under the PP-GEMT program, and therefore has an interest in the continuation of its existence, which depends on DHCS receiving sufficient intergovernmental transfers from GEMT providers, and

WHEREAS, the short-term financial benefits of receiving the supplemental revenue without providing transfer payments to DHCS are outweighed by the ongoing benefit of contributing to the long-term success of the PP-GEMT program, and

WHEREAS, if a public agency GEMT provider notifies DHCS of its intent to participate in funding the PP-GEMT program via intergovernmental transfer, DHCS will calculate a contribution amount, based on the anticipated cost of the program and spread proportionally, based on Medi-Cal transport counts, to all public agencies who have notified DHCS of intent to financially participate; annual reconciliations will be conducted by DHCS to determine any over- or under-contributions for future adjustment, and

WHEREAS, electing to transfer funds to DHCS via an intergovernmental transfer creates no ongoing obligation and a public agency GEMT provider can choose to withdraw from its status as a funding participant and decline to transfer funds at any time, and

WHEREAS, the County voluntarily elects to transfer funds to the State of California, DHCS to fund the PP-GEMT program, in an annual amount determined the by the California Department of Health Care Services, and

WHEREAS, the County intends that funds will only be transferred to DHCS so long as it is estimated that the revenues received under the PP-GEMT program will be greater than the cost of the transfer to DHCS, and that the County will terminate its status as a funding public agency GEMT provider should this no longer be the case,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado does hereby:

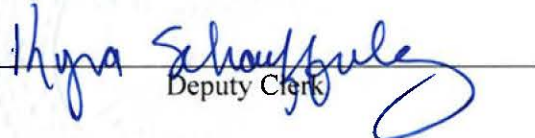
1. Elect to voluntarily transfer funds from the County of El Dorado to the State of California in support of the PP-GEMT program, in an annual amount determined the by the California Department of Health Care Services, provided that said funds have been duly appropriated in the County budget, and
2. Authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, or any Assistant or Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, to administer the County's participation in the PP-GEMT program, and to approve and execute any forms, certifications, reports, or other required documents, upon approval by County Counsel.
3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to cause the PP-GEMT program to be reviewed periodically, and to notify the Board of Supervisors should it be estimated that the PP-GEMT revenue will no longer exceed the cost of funding the program, or if the program if otherwise not in the best interest of the County.

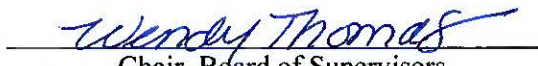
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado at a regular meeting of said Board, held the 26th day of September, 20 23 by the following vote of said Board:

Ayes: Thomas, Hidahl, Turnboo, Parlin, Laine
Noes: None
Absent: None

Attest:
Kim Dawson
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By:


Deputy Clerk


Chair, Board of Supervisors
Wendy Thomas