



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Executive Office

DARCIE ANTLE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

501 Low Gap Rd. Room 1010
Ukiah, CA 95482

Email: ceo@mendocinocounty.gov
Website: www.mendocinocounty.gov

Office: (707) 463-4441
Fax: (707) 463-5649

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) July 2025 CEO Report

Introduction

The County contracts Coastal Valleys Emergency Medical Services Agency's (CVEMSA) to serve as its Local Emergency Medical Services Agency (LEMSA). Coastal Valleys has begun the Board's directed fiscal assessment of the three fire departments: Laytonville, Anderson Valley, and Covelo; meeting regularly with the Covelo Fire Chief to help sustain the BLS ambulance program and to provide support with identified gaps in service. CVEMSA is implementing the evidence-based best practice to require emergency medical services (EMS) crews to remain on scene for a minimum of 10-30 minutes during pediatric cardiac arrest resuscitations.

EMS Fiscal Assessment

At the May 6th Board of Supervisors meeting, LEMSA and OES staff were directed to conduct a fiscal assessment of our rural EMS providers receiving County EMS enhancement funding. Laytonville, Anderson Valley, and Covelo Fire Departments all committed to completing a three-year fiscal assessment to include fiscal years 22/23, 23/24, 24/25. Reports are due on Friday, August 15, 2025, and will include:

1. Current billing rates
2. Current reimbursement rates
3. Number of EMS transports
4. Annual agency EMS budget
5. Identified gaps in budget
6. Agency efforts to improve identified funding gaps
7. Review of how County funding has been used since 2014
8. Intent of ongoing funding support into the future
9. Intergovernmental Transfer/ Ground Emergency Medical Transport (IGT/GEMT) funding enrollment and participation
10. Confirmation of 100 percent Patient Care Reporting (PCR) completed and submitted for billing of all patient contacts.

Covelo EMS Support

While Covelo Fire Protection District (FPD) operates independently as a volunteer-based service, Coastal Valleys Emergency Medical Services Agency's administrative and regulatory support frames an overall safety net in coordination with Mendocino County funding decisions and EMS providers. CVEMSA has been meeting regularly with the Covelo Fire Chief to help sustain the BLS ambulance program and to provide support with identified gaps in service. CVEMSA has also met with Round Valley Indian Health Center to discuss rural-clinic receiving facility authorization to receive low-acuity EMS patients. Due to the recognized remote location within the service catchment area of RVIHC, low-acuity EMS patients could potentially be transported to the health clinic rather than the closest emergency department (which is approximately two-hour ground transport). This would help free up ambulance availability and provide more rapid care for low-acuity patients. This effort does come with some hurdles; CVEMSA is actively working to ensure that current legislation has been implemented to

allow EMS transport billing reimbursement to alternate destinations, and the clinic is conducting a staffing assessment to ensure they can increase overall patient census numbers during normal operating hours.

Pediatric Cardiac Arrest Management Updates

CVEMSA, in alignment with the latest evidence-based best practices and leadership from Dr. Peter Antevy, pediatric emergency medicine expert and creator of the Handtevy Pediatric Resuscitation System, is implementing an important cultural and clinical shift in how providers manage pediatric cardiac arrests. Effective no later than August 15, 2025, EMS crews are advised to remain on scene for a minimum of 10-30 minutes during pediatric cardiac arrest resuscitations, or until three rounds of epinephrine have been administered, unless there are compelling safety concerns or extenuating circumstances. This change moves us away from a traditional "scoop and run" approach, and toward deliberate, high-quality on-scene care, which has been shown to significantly improve patient outcomes.

Dr. Antevy and others in pediatric EMS leadership have demonstrated that extended on-scene resuscitation - with a focus on high-performance CPR, precise medication administration, and crew coordination - yields higher survival rates and better neurologic outcomes. The Handtevy system supports this by eliminating dosing errors and preparing crews for rapid, accurate intervention. We recognize this represents a significant shift in our system's response culture. Crews may face emotionally challenging situations where resuscitation efforts may ultimately be terminated on scene. Therefore, training and preparation are critical to help providers deliver confident, compassionate care both to the patient and to the family. CVEMSA has been actively engaged with all EMS, fire and law enforcement partners to ensure our emergency response partners transition smoothly.