



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Ernesto Rodriguez, Chief
Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "ER", is placed over the "FROM:" line.

DATE: May 28, 2015

SUBJECT: Proposed Interlocal Agreements with Austin Community College and Oregon Health & Science University - Background Information

On June 4, 2015, Council will consider two interlocal agreements with Austin Community College (ACC) and Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) to provide educational internships with Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services (ATCEMS). Given the questions related to an interlocal agreement with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) at Council's last meeting, this memo provides additional background information. Unlike the FBI interlocal, which only allowed observation just like citizen "ride-alongs", the proposed interlocals entail hands-on training internships.

Background

Just as the case with physicians and nurses, emergency medical technician and paramedic training requires that students complete a supervised field training internship to successfully complete the certification or licensure program. The field training includes hospital emergency rooms, operating rooms, labs and specialty areas such pediatric hospitals, labor and delivery and intensive care units. It also includes each student completing a specific number of shifts on an emergency medical services ambulance. These experiences serve to educate and train emergency medical technicians and paramedics in patient assessment, clinical decision-making, differential diagnostics and medical procedures. This is required by the Texas Department of State Health Services to receive a certification or license.

ATCEMS in conjunction with the Office of the Medical Director has an established student internship program. As one of the leading emergency medical services agencies in the country, paramedic schools from across the country approach ATCEMS to request clinical internships for their students. Because ATCEMS has a limited number of Field Training Officers and Captains who can serve as trainers, the department limits the number of programs it enters into a clinical affiliation with and always retains the right to assign students based on the availability

of training staff. ATCEMS management carefully assesses internship assignment to ensure patient safety is not jeopardized.

ATCEMS and the ACC EMS Program have maintained a clinical affiliation agreement for over 30 years. In addition to the education experience for the student, the internship creates an excellent opportunity for both the department and the students to assess employment fit at ATCEMS. Between 2012 and 2014, ATCEMS hired twenty-three ACC students as medics after graduation.

Our affiliation agreement with Oregon Health and Science University (OSHU) is similar to ACC, but on a much smaller scale. OSHU typically requests internships for two to six students each year.

ATCEMS has enjoyed a long-standing training relationship with each of these programs. Through our relationship, we have helped train and shape the medics and EMS leaders of the future and improved our recruiting and hired capability thorough direct hiring of students and the positive experience students have with our department during their clinical internship.

cc: Marc A. Ott, City Manager
Rey Arellano, Assistant City Manager