

Fire Services Ad-Hoc Committee

Project Overview

September 2014



Ad-Hoc Committee

- **Ad-Hoc Committee established to review existing fire services in Sonoma County and make recommendations to support a more effective and efficient fire system**
- **Focus is on fire services, but EMS will be taken into consideration where necessary**
- **Committee Members:**
 - Efren Carrillo, Board of Supervisors, Fifth District
 - Mike McGuire, Board of Supervisors, Fourth District

Guiding Principles

The effort is guided by three core principles:

- **Any decisions should result in quality of service equal to or better than current levels**
- **Any decisions should improve cost effectiveness of fire services**
- **Any decisions will be made with a County-wide view**

Current Fire Services

Over 40 different organizations respond to approximately 80,000 calls for fire and emergency medical services each year in Sonoma County.

Most of the organizations are separate Fire Agencies

Most of the calls for services are medical in nature and some of the Fire Agencies also provide ambulance services.

Many of the different organizations both fire and ambulance providers alike have experienced financial difficulties in recent years

Stakeholders

All stages of the project will involve key external stakeholders including:

- **Fire Chiefs, Fire Boards, Fire Labor from Fire Protection Districts, Volunteer Fire Companies, and cities**
- **Ambulance providers, ambulance provider boards, and ambulance labor**

as well as County staff (CAO, CSA 40, Coastal Valleys EMS, etc.)

Project Timeline

The Project will have three Phases:

- **Phase 1 – Focus groups, data analysis, proposal development and first summit (July 2014 – December 2014)**
- **Phase 2 – County-wide fire services municipal services review report development and second summit (January 2015 – October 2015)**
- **Phase 3 – Approval and implementation (November 2015 – July 2016)**

Advisory Committee

In order to help in this project, an Advisory Committee is being established.

- **The Committee will include representatives from all stakeholder groups**
- **The Committee membership is open – there will not be a specific number of slots for a particular region or stakeholder group**
- **All interested parties who are willing to make the requisite time commitment are encouraged to participate**
- **Interested participants should contact Peter Bruland (Peter.Bruland@sonoma-county.org)**

Next Steps

Focus Groups

- We are planning a series of regional focus groups in October and November for stakeholders
- The goal will be to have a structured discussion to ensure mutual understanding of the project, current and historical challenges, and other necessary elements of scope for the project
- The purpose of these focus groups is *not* to discuss final recommendations – it is to ensure that we have broad understanding of what should be included in the project and the process by which we will get to recommendations

Next Steps (continued)

Data Analysis and Proposal Development

- **Staff will be conducting initial data analysis on available information, including REDCOM data and data maintained by individual fire service providers**
- **Staff will also be seeking data that individual organizations may have available (e.g. fire run software or other response records, staffing and certifications, key changes that may have taken place and might help in better understanding the data, etc.)**

Next Steps (continued)

Summit

- Phase 1 will culminate with a December Summit with all stakeholders and other interested parties
- This Summit will serve to publically launch the project and will include results from the focus groups, presentation of initial data analysis regarding existing services, and presentation of an initial proposal for consultant services
- Will also lay out and clarify the process and timelines for Phase 2

Who to Contact

**For more information on the project or for additional comments,
please contact:**

**Chris Thomas, Assistant County Administrator
(707) 565-3781**

Chris.Thomas@sonoma-county.org

**Al Terrell, Fire and Emergency Services
Director**

(707) 565-1152

Al.Terrell@sonoma-county.org

**Peter Bruland, Administrative Analyst:
(707) 565-3086**

Peter.Bruland@sonoma-county.org

Questions and Comments

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