



April 12, 2018

Pat Frost, RN, MS, PNP
Director, Emergency Medical Services
Contra Costa Health Services
1340 Arnold Drive, Suite 126
Martinez, CA 94553

Dear Ms. Frost,

Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG) is writing this letter in strong support of your agency's application for grant funding to initiate the Health Information Exchange (HIE) project for Emergency Medical Services in Contra Costa county. We believe that the implementation of an HIE between the EMS providers and hospitals will result in improved care in both the pre-hospital and hospital settings. The grant funding will facilitate a 90/10 matching of Federal Medicaid dollars that will build the infrastructure for the secure movement of patient information and allow for better measurement of quality patient care and outcomes.

The Contra Costa EMS agency is well positioned to participate in this project. The county is already participating in the POLST e-Registry Pilot. In addition, it is also participating in an HSAG Special Innovation Project funded by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) to improve the stroke system of care in the county. Contra Costa is also a county where HSAG has organized a community coalition of providers to improve care transitions and care coordination. Receiving this grant funding to design and implement an HIE architecture will build additional capability to improve outcomes for county residents. The use of health information exchange will allow accurate communication of critical data from the first responders and ambulance transport to the in-hospital care team members, especially for treatment requiring time sensitive treatment or therapy such as trauma, heart attack, or stroke. An integrated information system will also allow for more efficient transitions of care and better decision support for the EMS providers to deliver the patient to the proper facility.

HSAG offers strong support to your agency to help achieve funding of this important project. We believe your agency has a capable and talented leadership team that is ready and able to receive the grant funding for the implementation of an effective HIE that will ultimately result in better health outcomes for the county residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Ellen Dalton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" and last name "Dalton" clearly legible.

Mary Ellen Dalton, PhD, MBA, RN
Chief Executive Officer
Health Services Advisory Group, Inc.