



**TO:** SOUTHERN NEVADA DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH      **DATE:** December 13, 2007

**RE:** *Request Delegation of Authority from State Board of Health to Develop a System of Data Collection Concerning Waiting Times for Patient Transfer from Emergency Medical Services to Hospital Pursuant to Senate Bill No. 244*

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**PETITION #44-07**

*That the Southern Nevada District Board of Health request delegation of authority from the State Board of Health to develop a system of data collection concerning waiting times for patient transfer from Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to hospital pursuant to Senate Bill No. 244.*

**PETITIONERS:**

*Rory Chetelat, Acting Director of Community Health* <sup>MEB</sup>

*Michael Walsh, Director of Administration* <sup>MW</sup>

*Lawrence Sands, DO, MPH, Chief Health Officer* <sup>LS</sup>

**DISCUSSION:**

Senate Bill No. 244 passed by the 2007 Nevada Legislature amended Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 450B entitled Emergency Medical Services. NRS 450B.795 requires the State Board of Health to develop a system of collecting data concerning waiting times experienced by providers of emergency medical services in transferring a person who arrives at the hospital by an ambulance, air ambulance or vehicle of a fire fighting agency to an appropriate place in the hospital to receive emergency services and care. Existing law requires such transfer to occur within thirty minutes after the time at which the person arrives at the hospital.

Section 8 of the Bill provides that the State Board of Health may delegate its duties to the district board of health in a county whose population is 400,000 or more. Alex Haartz, Nevada State Health Division Administrator, indicated that the State Board of Health would be asked at its August 17, 2007 meeting to make the delegation of its duties under Senate Bill No. 244 to the Southern Nevada District Board of Health, and had requested a letter from the Chief Health Officer expressing willingness to accept such delegation. Based thereon the Southern Nevada District Board of Health on August 23, 2007 voted unanimously to accept such delegation, and forwarded the requested letter.

**DISCUSSION (Cont.):**

On November 30, 2007 Mr. Haartz communicated to the Chief Health Officer in pertinent part as follows:

First, attached is a copy of the regulation language prepared by the State's Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) and provided to the Health Division yesterday afternoon to meet the requirement of the State Board of Health adopting regulations pursuant to the 2007 Legislative Session's SB 244, Section 1, Subsection 11. One aspect of the regulation language that differs from the Health Division's prior draft is that more specific detail has been added to what a county or district board of health must include in their written request to the State Board of Health. (Section 6) I point this out because these requirements differ from the August 23, 2007 letter from Mr. Steven Kirk, Chairman, Southern Nevada District Board of Health accepting delegation at their August 23, 2007 meeting. It appears a new letter will be necessary in compliance with Section 6.

Second, these proposed regulations will be on the Board's December 7th agenda, as agenda item #5. Agenda Item #6 is will be an action item through which the Health Division will be proposing that the Board delegate the responsibility for the data collection study to the Southern Nevada District Board of Health effective 1) with the Board's regulations becoming effective and 2) a new letter being received. Once approved by the Board, the regulations will need to be reviewed/approved by the Legislative Commission and then filed with the Secretary of State's Office to go into effect. This is typically within 45 days.

The Chief Health Officer and Health District Emergency Medical Services (EMS) staff believe that requesting the delegation from the State Board of Health is appropriate and furthers public health in Clark County. Assumption of the duties of the State Board of Health pursuant to the delegation would allow Health District staff in the EMS office to develop the system for data collection in Clark County, and continue the practice of partnering with local EMS providers in furtherance of an efficient EMS system in Clark County.

**FUNDING:**