



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 3/26/2018

Agenda Placement: 7B

## Napa County Legislative Subcommittee Board Agenda Letter

---

**TO:** Napa County Legislative Subcommittee

**FROM:** Helene Franchi for Minh Tran - County Executive Officer  
County Executive Office

**REPORT BY:** Molly Rattigan, Deputy County Executive Officer - 253-4112

**SUBJECT:** AB 1795 (Gipson) - Emergency Medical Services; Community Care Facilities

---

### **RECOMMENDATION**

County Executive Officer and Director of Health and Human Services Agency request discussion and possible action on AB 1795 (Gipson), a bill that seeks to authorize local emergency medical services agencies to submit, as part of their emergency services plan, a plan to transport specified patients to a community care facility in lieu of transportation to a general acute care hospital.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

AB 1795 (Gipson) would authorize a local emergency medical services agency to allow paramedics to transport people to a community care facility, defined as a mental health urgent care center or sobering facility, if available in their county.

Currently, patients with a mental health condition who are under the care of a paramedic must be transported to a hospital with an emergency department. In 2016, emergency departments statewide received over 14.5 million visits, resulting in severe overcrowding and high wait times.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Is there a Fiscal Impact?                      No

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

**BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION**

Currently, patients with a mental health condition who are under the care of a paramedic must be transported to a hospital with an emergency department. In 2016, emergency departments statewide received over 14.5 million visits, resulting in severe overcrowding and high wait times.

Often, a patient who is transported to an emergency department could be treated more appropriately if transported directly to a mental health urgent care center or to a sobering center where medically-trained personnel, including nurses and psychiatrists, can provide specialized intensive crisis services and treatment. These highly-trained personnel can connect recovering patients to supportive services that will lead toward long-term care, housing, and self-sufficiency. Emergency department staff is ill-equipped to provide services for inebriated patients or those in need of mental health care whose condition is deemed to be non-emergent.

Community Paramedicine is a model of community-based healthcare designed to provide efficient emergency response services. It allows paramedics to function outside their traditional emergency response and transport roles to help facilitate more appropriate use of emergency department resources while enhancing access to care. For example, fire departments in Los Angeles County respond to over 650,000 9-1-1 calls annually and transported over 550,000 of those patients to emergency departments. A third of this number is estimated to be non-emergency and over 30,000 of these patients who could be more appropriately cared for at a mental health urgent care center or sobering center.

Napa County Health and Human Services Agency recommends a position of support.

California State Association of Counties: Support

Rural County Representatives of California: Napa County staff spoke with RCRC staff. The legislation impacts only a small number of RCRC counties and RCRC will likely not take a position for that reason. RCRC staff did not foresee issues with the legislation or Napa County taking a position of support.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

A . AB 1795-Fact Sheet

B . AB 1795-Text

Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Molly Rattigan