

Emergency Medical Transport Assistance Program

May 5, 2015

General Government & Social Services Committee

Department of Social Services

Division of Adult & Tenant Services

Emergency Medical Transport Assistance

■ Identify the Need

- To mitigate the threat of low-income residents declining or refusing EMS transport service due to financial limitations or inability to pay.

■ Proposal Objective

- To offer financial assistance for costs associated with emergency medical transport of low-income residents.



Agenda

- To reintroduce the EMS delivery system in Lexington – Fayette.
- To distinguish the EMS functions of “*dispatch*” and “*transport*”.
- To identify local market providers in medical transport field.
- To assess the financial impact of medical billing & EMS fees.
- To propose establishing the Emergency Medical Transport Assistance program addendum for Adult & Tenant Services.



Basic Reintroduction to EMS

- The Lexington Division of Fire and Emergency Services (LDFES) is a combination department, which provides Fire Suppression, Special Operations, Hazardous Material Mitigation and Emergency Medical Services (EMS).
- All 542 Lexington Firefighters are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs).
 - 230 Lexington Firefighters are also certified as Paramedics.
- Lexington's EMS handles all emergency runs in Fayette County, with response to all 911 calls requesting medical assistance.
- All dispatched medical emergencies are responded to by a system of 11 front line units that are staffed 24 hours/day. In addition, 3 surge units are deployed into service when emergency calls outnumber resources.



EMS - Dispatch and Transport

- In calendar year 2014, Lexington's Emergency Medical Services responded to 36,638 dispatched runs, with 31,963 patients transported.
- Calendar year 2015 's year-to-date comparison with CY 2014 shows an 13% increase in dispatched runs, and an 11% increase in patient transports.
- Legally, if a patient requests transport to a hospital it **must be provided** to them. Patients also have the **right to decline** transport after they have been informed of their right to transport, and are found to be alert & oriented.
- **Implied Consent** laws allow EMS personnel to transport patients that are unconscious or incoherent to a hospital. EMS personnel must act in the best interests of the patient and treat the patient in a matter that any reasonable person in the same situation would act like.



Other Medical Transport Services

- There are 2 private ambulance providers that are licensed to operate in Fayette County.
 - American Medical Response (AMR) and Rural Metro.
- Rural Metro and AMR's main operational responsibilities are geared toward the convalescent runs in Fayette County. These operators concentrate on patient transports (to and from the home) that require an ambulance.
- In addition, Lexington EMS will do emergent transfers of patients in one facility needing to go to another for critical interventions not available at that facility.



Lexington EMS and Medical Billing

- Ambulance crews in Lexington **do not** determine the patient's billing level for medical transport costs. Their only concern is to deliver care to the patient. The billing level is determined by a third-party billing company, which reviews & analyzes the patient care data report, transmitted on the scene by EMS personnel.

- Patients are billed at 4 different rates, determined by the level of care:

Basic Life Support	\$ 733
Advanced Life Support 1	\$ 845
Advanced Life Support 2	\$1,015
Inter-facility Transfer	\$1,128

- There is also a mileage charge of \$12.50/mile.



Lexington EMS and Medical Billing

	FY2015 YTD (as of 3/15)	FYE 2014	FYE 2013	FYE 2012
Average Billings (per transport)	\$847	\$832	\$830	\$804
# Transports	21,168	25,275	24,422	24,690
EMS Revenue (Millions)	\$5.5	\$6.9	\$6.7	\$7.0
EMS Receivable (Millions)	\$6.6	\$7.1	\$6.6	\$6.8



Emergency Medical Transport Assistance

■ ***Proposal***

- To design & implement a financial assistance program consistent with comparable social service programs.

■ ***Who qualifies?***

- Fayette County residents whose household income falls at or below 150% of Federal Poverty Guidelines.



Income Eligibility Requirements

Family Size	Annual Income at 150% of Federal Poverty Guidelines
1	\$17,655
2	\$23,895
3	\$30,135
4	\$36,375
5	\$42,615
6	\$48,855
7	\$55,095
8	\$61,335



EMTA Program Guidelines

- Persons who can demonstrate inability to pay costs associated with emergency transport fees.
- Sets the cap for assistance at \$400 per transport occurrence. Retroactive services and/or outstanding fees are not eligible.
- As Medicare and Medicaid patients are an affected population for this proposed program, the LFUCG Dept. of Law requested and received legal guidance from the US Dept. of Health & Human Services, Office of Inspector General.



EMTA Program Administration

- Clients can access financial assistance once within a twenty-four (24) month period
 - Adult and Tenant Services will assign clients a case worker to manage the underlying issue causing this need.
- Clients with other social service needs
 - Adult and Tenant Services works with all clients to complete a comprehensive financial assessment to assist with other basic needs.
- Uninsured Clients
 - Adult and Tenant Services partners onsite with the Community Action Council to help enroll clients in the *Kynect* Health Insurance Exchange.



LFUCG Financial Assistance Programs

- Comparable programs administered by the Division of Adult & Tenant Services:

Program	FY 2015 Funding	Balance (as of 4/17/05)
EFA – Utilities & Rent	\$200,000	\$62,444
Sewer User Fee	\$119,747	\$69,280
Landfill User Fee	\$10,000	\$3,346
Rezoning & Development	\$251,817	\$240,650
Housing Relocation (Condemnation)	\$25,000	\$0.00



Recommendations

- Establish the Emergency Medical Transport Assistance (EMTA) program via adoption of Council Resolution.
- Authorize the Division of Adult & Tenant Services to create an *Addendum* to the existing Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA) Program Guidelines.
- The Division will analyze program activity & project financial impact in anticipation of FY 2017 budget.



Questions & Comments

