

**CONFIRE**

STAFF REPORT

DATE: November 17, 2025

FROM: Nathan Cooke, Interim Director

BY: Damian Parsons, Finance/Administrative Director
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TO: CONFIRE Administrative Committee

SUBJECT: CONFIRE ECNS Regionalization Initiative Sub-Committee (CERIS)

Recommendation

It is recommended that the CONFIRE Administrative Committee create the CONFIRE Emergency Communications Nurse System (ECNS) Regionalization Initiative Sub-Committee (CERIS), of the Administrative Committee and appoint 2-3 Administrative Committee members to serve on the sub-committee.

The CERIS will be comprised of Administrative Committee members, CONFIRE ECNS/Communications staff, and subject matter experts in ECNS. CERIS will discuss and explore options related to the regionalization of the (ECNS) program, the governance of such a system, and will participate in any state-wide task forces/committees that are created for this effort.

It is recommended that CERIS appoint a chairperson and that he/she reports back to the Administrative Committee on a regular basis on the progress being made and any projected or foreseen impacts to CONFIRE.

Background Information

The implementation of the Emergency Communications Nurse System (ECNS) program occurred December 21, 2020, through a contractual agreement with Regional Emergency Medical Services Agency (REMSA) to provide California licensed nurses who were Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) trained in LowCode to screen certain low acuity calls and direct them to appropriate treatment or transportation options. This program aims to mitigate unnecessary ambulance transport and emergency room (ER) visits by providing immediate, professional nursing care to individuals in their homes or community settings and sometimes arrange for other modes of transportation to non-emergency medical facilities. This approach not only alleviates the strain on our emergency services but also ensures that patients receive timely and appropriate care in the most suitable environment.

Since its inception, the program has made remarkable strides. We have successfully implemented protocols and trained a dedicated team of emergency nurses who are now actively processing calls. Feedback from patients and the healthcare community has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the program's efficacy in delivering high-quality care and reducing the burden on emergency departments.

CERIS will explore sustainable funding mechanisms, governance, membership, and any other related issues pertaining to a regionalization effort of the ECNS program.

Fiscal Impact

There is no financial impact currently.