

RESOLUTION NO. 24-26

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF HUERFANO COUNTY, COLORADO**

**A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE COUNTY RESOLUTION ON
AMBULANCE SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Huerfano County, Colorado (the “Board”) pursuant to the authority granted in the Colorado Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Act, Colo. Rev. Stat. § 25-3.5-101, et seq., as amended, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (the “Department”); Health Facilities and Emergency Medical Services Division; Emergency Medical Services Rules, 6 CCR 1015-3, as amended, has the authority to regulate and authorize ambulance services operating within the county’s jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, the health and safety of the residents within Huerfano County (the “County”) are of paramount importance, and efficient medical services are vital for preserving and protecting the County community and its visitors;

WHEREAS, on May 9th, 2017, the County adopted Resolution 17-53 regarding the County’s authority to regulate ambulance services;

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the need to establish further operational rules and guidelines to ensure the effective and reliable functioning of the ambulance services within the County;

WHEREAS, the Board desires to pass a resolution to enhance coordination among emergency responders, optimize resource allocation, and maintain the highest standards of medical care during transportation and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to limit ambulance services traveling to the Walsenburg community to transport patients from the Huerfano County Hospital District (“District”) critical access hospital (“Hospital” also doing business as Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center) and to limit such transports from the Hospital to the ambulance service operated by the District (“District’s EMS”).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Huerfano County, Colorado that the following rules for ambulance services operating within the County are hereby established:

- A. Authorization to Operate. A ground ambulance service shall not operate from an ambulance service station located in the County unless the ground ambulance service has obtained authorization to operate from the County.
- B. Board Actions. Subject to the existing state and County licensing requirements, the Board hereby takes the following actions:

1. The Board hereby affirms the District's EMS license and authorization to operate a ground ambulance service in the County, including authority to transport patients from any location in the County and deliver patients to medically appropriate locations within and without the boundaries of the County.
 2. No other ground ambulance services operating from stations located within 35 miles of the Hospital may transport patients from the Hospital, other than the District's EMS service.
- C. Limitations on Licensed Ambulance Services. Notwithstanding any current or future licensee's authorization to operate ambulance services within the County, the District's EMS is the only ground ambulance service located within 35 miles of the Hospital that is authorized by the Board to transport patients from the Hospital to other locations within or without the County. Subject to exceptions described herein, ambulance services stationed within 35 miles of the Hospital are not authorized to transport patients from the Hospital.
- D. Mutual Aid Agreements. Ambulance services headquartered or stationed outside the County may deliver patients to locations within the County when medically appropriate and may assist in mass casualty and similar emergent situations when requested by the County, emergency authorities or licensed ambulance operators headquartered in the County. The County will have full legal authority to exercise emergency response mutual aid agreements with other surrounding emergency response agencies, including without limitation air ambulance services providers and enter into arrangements as needed for the health and safety of the residents and visitors of the County.
- E. Authorization Term. Ambulance service authorizations granted or limitations imposed in accordance with this Resolution shall remain valid until revoked by the Board.
- F. Ambulance License Required. On and after July 1, 2024, no person or agency, private or public shall transport a patient from or to any point within the County in an ambulance to any point within or outside the County unless the person or agency holds a valid license issued by the State of Colorado pursuant to C.R.S.A. § 25-3.5-314.
- G. Legacy Clause. If, on or after July 1, 2024, the Board relinquishes its authority to regulate ambulance services within the County to the state of Colorado by submitting an "opt out" form as required by the state of Colorado, this Resolution shall remain in full force in effect unless the Board determines otherwise through a written resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby finds, determines and declares that this Resolution is necessary for the safety, welfare, and resilience of the residents of the County of Huerfano, State of Colorado.

INTRODUCED, READ, APPROVED AND ADOPTED ON THIS 11th day of JUNE 2024.



ATTEST:

County Clerk and Recorder and
Ex-Officio Clerk to said Board

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF HUERFANO COUNTY, COLORADO

BY _____
John Galusha, Chairman

Arica Andreatta, Commissioner

Karl Sporleder, Commissioner