

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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DATE: September 17, 2014

TO: Commission on EMS

FROM: Howard Backer, MD, MPH, FACEP
Director

PREPARED BY: M.D. Smith
Supervising Special Investigator
Enforcement Unit

SUBJECT: Update on Enforcement Activities

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive information on Enforcement Unit activities.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

DISCUSSION:**Unit Staffing:**

As of July 31, 2014, the Enforcement Unit has 5 full-time Special Investigators assigned, one Special Investigator assigned as the EMT-2010 Project Coordinator does not carry a full case load, and 2 Retired Annuitants working as Special Investigators.

Investigative Workload:

The following is a summary of currently available data extracted from the paramedic database.

Cases opened since January 1, 2014, including:

Cases opened:	153
Cases completed and/or closed:	224
EMT-Paramedics on Probation:	241

In 2013:

Cases opened:	429
Cases completed and/or closed:	427
EMT-Paramedics on Probation:	300

Status of Current Cases:

The Enforcement Unit currently has 153 cases in “open” status.

As of July 31, 2014, there are 72 cases that have been in “open” status for 180 days or longer; 14 are Fire Fighters’ Bill of Rights (FFBOR) cases and 18 are California Society of Addiction Medicine (CSAM....cases where Respondents are directed to a physician who specializes in addiction medicine for an examination/review) cases.

Those 72 cases are divided among 8 Special Investigators are in various stages of the investigative process, (i.e. awaiting documents, preparing for and/or setting up interviews, report writing and corrections to be made, awaiting action by local law enforcement jurisdictions, the courts, etc.).

[Delays in the interview process are common due to unforeseen difficulties in obtaining certified copies of documents, court records, availability of witnesses and/or the subject(s) of an investigation (due to medical action/disability issues, on-going investigations for FFBOR staff or on-going criminal investigations, court actions), plus the routine requirement for two or more follow-up interviews.]