PUBLIC SAFETY EARLY DEFIBRILLATION PROGRAM

I. PURPOSE

To delineate requirements and practices for the provision of Public Safety Early Defibrillation in Marin County with the goal of increasing the survival rate from cardiac arrest.

II. DEFINITIONS

A. Public Safety early defibrillation refers to the practice of utilizing public safety and law enforcement personnel with additional specified training to administer defibrillatory shocks with an automated defibrillator to apneic, pulseless patients prior to the arrival of medical personnel.

B. Automated defibrillator means an external defibrillator capable of cardiac rhythm analysis that will charge and deliver a shock, either automatically or by user interaction, after electronically detecting and assessing ventricular fibrillation or rapid ventricular tachycardia.

III. POLICY

A. Public Safety personnel are dispatched to a variety of incidents and are often the first personnel to arrive.

B. Provision of early defibrillation is an optional adjunct to care that may be provided by any agency wishing to do so.

C. Policy/procedure related to training program approval, maintenance of skill proficiency, treatment guidelines, and quality assurance will be monitored by the EMS Office in conjunction with the provider, the zone ALS provider, and the physician medical director.

D. Public Safety personnel will function in this capacity only following completion of a Marin County approved early defibrillation class, maintenance of the required skills refresher training and compliance with the applicable policies and procedures.