**Life Support Unit Personnel Staffing Requirement**

The purpose of this protocol is to insure that BLS/LALS/ALS units are staffed in a manner that is conducive to optimal patient care. In every instance, it is the emphasis of the HEMS MCA that all communities receive Pre-hospital Advanced Life Support. Further, it emphasizes that all agencies strive to provide that level of service to its residents.

The minimum acceptable personnel licensure level for Life Support Units operating within the HEMS MCA is as follows:

- **BLS Unit**: (1) Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and (1) Medical First Responder (MFR) now termed Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
- **LALS Unit**: (1) Specialist/AEMT and (1) Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- **ALS Unit**: (1) Paramedic and (1) Specialist/AEMT
- **Critical**: (1) Critical Care Trained Paramedic per HEMS protocol and (1) Paramedic
- **Echo Unit**: (1) Paramedic
- **Mike Unit**: (1) Specialist/AEMT
- **Tango Unit**: (1) Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

An agency that wishes to temporarily or permanently deviate from the standard set above refer to the ALTERNATE ALS STAFFING policy.
ALTERNATE ALS STAFFING

The purpose of this policy is to allow a Life Support Agency the ability to deviate from the standard ALS staffing described in the Life Support Unit Personnel Staffing protocol. If at any time a Life Support Agency utilizes alternate staffing then they must file the appropriate Alternate Staffing Application form.

This policy DOES NOT apply to the Critical Care Transport Unit.

Alternate ALS Staffing - Under normal operations it is understood that at times there may be factors that drive a Life Support Unit to be staffed less than the standard as set forth by the HEMS Life Support Unit Personnel Staffing Protocol. If unusual circumstances result in a licensed ALS unit being staffed by less than the standard as set forth by the HEMS MCA, that unit may function at the level that it is licensed provided the unit is staffed at the State minimum statutory requirement.

An agency lacking resources to attain the MCA minimum staffing standard must:

A) File a formal application with HEMS, approved by the Physician PSRO Committee, to the HEMS MCA. (Applies to existing services only and a new application must be filed annually with the license renewal application.)

B) Agree to work toward meeting the minimum ALS staffing standard.

C) Report to the PSRO Committee, annually, in conjunction with the 2 required CQI indicators on all responses / transports with Alternate ALS Staffing and progress toward achieving the minimum staffing standard.

Alternate Staffing Application – Upon action of the HEMS Physician PSRO Committee, approval may be granted to an ALS agency to function at the level it is licensed provided the ALS unit(s) is staffed at the State minimum statutory requirement.

Note: Alternate ALS Staffing Request Form Section 12.4