

# County of Santa Clara

## Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System

### Public Health



HHS01 042109

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DATE: April 21, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim R Roberts" followed by a checkmark.

Kim Roberts  
SCVHHS - Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Various Actions Related to Medical Reserve Corps Unit for Emergency Preparedness

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Consider recommendations relating to Medical Reserve Corps for emergency preparedness.

Possible action:

- a. Approve Agreement with National Association of County and City Health Officials relating to providing Medical Reserve Corps services in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 for period January 1, 2009 through July 31, 2009.
- b. Approve Request for Appropriation Modification No. 167 - \$5,000 increasing revenue and expenditures in the Public Health Department budget. (4/5 Roll Call Vote)

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There is no impact on the General Fund as a result of this action. This is one-time funding from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) in the amount of \$5,000. These funds will be used for expenses associated with recruitment of medically trained volunteers.

## **CONTRACT HISTORY**

On February 10, 2004, the Board of Supervisors approved an agreement with NACCHO for funding of an Advanced Practice Center for emergency preparedness. NACCHO has continued funding the Advanced Practice Center since that time. The initial grant application and award was for a five-year funding cycle. The contract term beginning October 1, 2008, marks the fifth and final year of funding.

On May 1, 2007, the Board of Supervisors approved an agreement with NACCHO for the provision of expenses related to training for Santa Clara County's Medical Volunteers for Disaster Response (MVDR) program for the period May 11, 2007 through July 31, 2007.

"Medical Volunteers Disaster Response" is the title the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency chose for NACCHO's Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) program that is unique to Santa Clara County.

The current MRC Agreement was received in final form on March 24, 2009, thus precluding submission to the Board before this time. Per NACCHO's procedures, the County executes the agreement first and then sends the agreement to NACCHO for final execution.

## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

Medical Volunteers for Disaster Response is a network of volunteer medical professionals housed in the County's Public Health Department. On March 7, 2006, MVDR was officially registered with the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General, Medical Reserve Corps Unit, in the Department of Health and Human Services.

MVDR originated as a collaborative project of the Public Health Department and the Volunteer Center of Silicon Valley, a nonprofit organization that recruits and places a wide range of volunteers and is also a key player in recruiting and registering spontaneous volunteers in emergency and disaster events. The volunteers will be used to provide screening, vaccinations and the dispensing of drugs in the event of a bioterrorist attack, or staffing of Influenza Care Clinics in the case of a pandemic influenza outbreak.

Approval of the recommended actions will provide funding for the costs associated with the recruitment of medically trained volunteers such as: stipends for developing marketing and recruitment materials; on-line recruitment, advertising, printing and distribution of recruitment flyers; and meeting support.

## **BACKGROUND**

The key goals of MVDR and the Medical Reserve Corps are to meet the Surgeon General's priorities of increasing disease prevention and strengthening public health preparedness. The Public Health Department has determined that the use of pre-registered medical volunteers will be crucial in the event of a bioterrorist attack, pandemic influenza or other public health emergencies or disasters. For this reason the Public Health Department initiated and agreed to house the MVDR Program. Both the County's Mass Prophylaxis Plan and Pandemic Flu Plan rely heavily on medically trained volunteer personnel. In the Mass Prophylaxis Plan, it is anticipated that MVDR workers will provide medical screening and vaccination/dispensing in the event of a bioterrorist attack. In the Pandemic Flu Plan, MVDR workers will staff Influenza Care Clinics, alternative care sites that provide for the expansion of health care when existing health care providers and institutions become overwhelmed.

To date, 368 volunteers including 67 physicians, 190 nurses, 73 Emergency Medical Service (EMS) professionals, 35 other public health/medical professionals, and 3 non-public health/non-medical professionals, have been registered.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

Failure to approve the recommended actions may result in loss of funding for recruitment of medically trained volunteers.

### **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

Return two (2) executed agreements as required by NACCHO to SCVHHS Administration.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- NACCHO Agreement
- EMS Agency MRC appropriation modification