

# County of Santa Clara

## Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System

### Public Health



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HHS03 062409


Prepared by: Colleen Martin  
Health Care Program Manager

Reviewed by: Rocio Luna  
Division Director

Submitted by: Dan Peddycord, RN, MPA/HA  
Public Health Administrator

DATE: June 24, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM:   
Kim Roberts  
SCVHHS - Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Various Actions Related to Advanced Practice Center for Emergency Preparedness

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Consider recommendations relating to Advanced Practice Center for emergency preparedness.

Possible action:

- a. Approve delegation of authority to Public Health Administrator, or designee, to execute Amendments to Agreement with National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) relating to providing Advanced Practice Center services for contract ending September 29, 2009, following approval by County Counsel as to form and legality, and approval by the Office of the County Executive. Delegation of authority shall expire on September 29, 2009.

- b. Ratify Grant Application submitted by Public Health Administrator to NACCHO relating to grant funding for Advance Practice Center for emergency preparedness in the amount of \$500,000 for period October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

Grant revenue for the current agreement, inclusive of the first amendment, is included in the FY10 recommended budget. The First Amendment will modify the scope of work and budget for the purpose of reducing the contract services budget line from \$15,000 to \$0, and increasing the supplies budget line from \$23,000 to \$38,000.

The requested amount of new grant funds from NACCHO for the upcoming 2009-2010 grant period is \$500,000. The majority of funding will be used for costs related to a full-time project coordinator and dependent contractor, and for contract/consulting services related to the development of three priority projects: a pediatric disaster toolkit; a mass fatality toolkit for healthcare facilities and clinics; and Web 2.0 for public health disaster and emergency communications toolkit.

There is no General Fund or in-kind match requirement for this grant. However, given the Public Health Department's (PHD) desire to build upon the achievements of the Advanced Practice Center, strengthen emergency preparedness, and enhance public health capabilities and capacities in Santa Clara County, PHD has proposed to absorb the majority of the administrative costs of the new grant and provide in-kind services for the partnerships with Stanford School of Medicine, University of Michigan College of Library Science, and Yale New Haven. If the grant is awarded, PHD will negotiate in-kind costs with its collaborating partners.

NACCHO is expected to issue notices of award in Fall 2009. If awarded, PHD will return to the Board with a request for an appropriation modification and related actions.

### **CONTRACT HISTORY**

On February 10, 2004, the Board of Supervisors approved the initial agreement with National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) for funding of an Advanced Practice Center (APC) 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 which began October 1, 2008, marks the fifth and final year of funding.

To date, PHD has developed a myriad of APC resources and toolkits including: County-wide Medical Response System Best Practices; a Disease Detection and Investigation Guide; Medical Volunteers for Disaster Response; Communicable Disease and Outbreak Response; Mass Medical Care during Pandemic Flu; Pandemic Flu School Preparedness; a Hospital Surge Capacity Toolkit; a Mass Fatality Management Toolkit ; and a Crisis, Emergency and Risk Communication and Public Education toolkit.

At its January 13, 2009 meeting, the Board approved the current agreement with National Association of County and City Health Officials relating to providing Advanced Practice Center services in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 for period October 1, 2008 through September 29, 2009.

PHD is in the final year for the five-year APC grant and will be completing work on the following projects by September 30, 2009:

1) The development of a *Disaster Recovery Web Solution and Dark Site Toolkit*. This will involve exploration of a solution with the Stanford University Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SIE) Program to provide information during disasters over the Web on both computers and cell phones using new technologies capable of immediately handling millions of queries a day. The toolkit will incorporate guidance for using this solution, including setting up of a “dark site” that can be activated in the event of a disaster. The technology infrastructure is currently in place for this project through a partnership between the Stanford SIE Program and Google.org.

2) The evaluation and repackaging of the train-the-trainer-toolkit on pandemic influenza for Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) that PHD developed and piloted in the County last year. The *Community Emergency Response Team Pandemic Influenza Train-the-Trainer Toolkit* will enable cities to prepare residents to help their neighbors during an influenza pandemic. The training can be provided by CERT trainers during the initial CERT training course or during a refresher session.

The grant application to NACCHO for the upcoming 2009-2010 grant period represents a new cycle of funding unrelated to the initial funding period.

## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

Santa Clara County's Public Health Department has been designated as an Advanced Practice Center for the past five years. APC funding is used to develop cutting edge tools and resources to prepare for, respond to, and recover from major disasters that can be shared with public health departments nationally.

PHD has demonstrated its ability to develop innovative strategies for disaster preparedness and response, and has had several opportunities to share these strategies nationally. These strategies include a pandemic influenza response plan, an influenza care center plan, a home health guide, and pocket resource guide.

Approval of delegation of authority to execute amendments to the current agreement with NACCHO will allow for the transfer of funds between line items established in the budget of the initial agreement and minor changes to the deliverables in the scope of work.

Ratification of the grant application will enable the Public Health Department to continue the work of the Advanced Practice Center, as well as strengthen emergency preparedness and enhance public health capabilities and capacities in Santa Clara County.

If approved for grant funding, PHD will focus on the following three priority projects:

1. A Hospital Pediatric Unit-Based Disaster Response Resource Guide and Tools for Regional Triage and Surge Capacity Collaboration;
2. Mass Fatality Capability and Capacity Assessment Tool - Healthcare Facilities Mass Fatality Management Plan Toolkit; and
3. Web 2.0 for Public Health Disaster and Emergency Communications Toolkit.

All competitive grants over \$250,000 must be reviewed and approved by the Board of Supervisors prior to the time of application. If a grant deadline is in danger of being missed due to the Board meeting schedule, the grant may be submitted prior to Board review; however the Board must ratify the grant application. Partly as a result of time and attention required of the recent H1N1 Flu, PHD was delayed in determining the specifics of the proposed application until shortly before its June 1, 2009 deadline. Therefore, the grant application was submitted prior to the Board's review

and approval.

## **BACKGROUND**

Over the past seven years, the Public Health Department, working in conjunction with the County Office of Emergency Services (OES), has made medical disaster preparedness and response a continued priority.

Under the direction of the County Health Officer, PHD's Public Health Preparedness Program and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency coordinate bioterrorism and other medical/health preparedness activities, and lead the County's medical/health disaster planning and response efforts. PHD maintains the Medical/Health Operations Center (MHOC) that forms the core infrastructure for medical disaster response, spearheads the development of a Countywide Medical Response System (CMRS), and has designed a public health laboratory with Level B capabilities. Key staff from PHD and OES meet on a regular basis to maximize all ongoing activities and to ensure mutually beneficial and non-duplicated services.

## **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

Failure to approve the recommended actions may impact PHD's ability to make minor changes to the current agreement's budget as well as apply for future funding for the Advanced Practice Center.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- NACCHO APC Grant Application