

County of Santa Clara

Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System

Public Health



HHS02 062409

Prepared by: Colleen Martin
Health Care Program Manager

Reviewed by: Charis Subil
Director of Nursing, Public Health and
Division Director

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

DATE: June 24, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Roberts".

Kim Roberts
SCVHHS - Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Resolution Delegating Authority to Execute Agreements for Public Health Laboratory Testing Services

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt Resolution delegating authority to the Public Health Administrator, or designee, to negotiate and execute contracts and contract amendments with various entities including California counties and cities, as well as business organizations and individuals for Public Health Laboratory testing services for period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2012, following approval by County Counsel as to form and legality and approval by the Office of the County Executive. This delegation of authority shall expire June 30, 2012. (Roll Call Vote)

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no impact on the General Fund as a result of this action. The FY10 recommended budget includes an estimated \$150,000 in revenue from these agreements. The revenue will fully cover the cost of testing services.

CONTRACT HISTORY

Since 2000, the Public Health Laboratory has provided laboratory testing services to other entities on an emergency and "as needed" basis. Compensation occurred via purchase orders. Due to the increase in the amount and frequency of services being requested by various entities and the potential for increased revenue through the provision of these services, it was determined that more formal agreements were needed.

At its December 13, 2005 meeting, the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution delegating authority to the Director of Public Health to negotiate and execute agreements and amendments with various California counties and cities for Public Health Laboratory testing services. This delegation expires on June 30, 2009.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Multiple requests for Public Health Laboratory testing services require the County to execute agreements with various entities including California counties and cities, as well as business organizations and individuals. The Public Health Department anticipates that between three and six counties/cities will execute agreements for laboratory testing services in FY 2010. Some of the test services that will be provided include: HIV, Mycology (fungus/mold), Pertussis (whooping cough), Virology (various viral tests including influenza, West Nile Virus and SARS). Adoption of the resolution will allow for the prompt execution of these agreements.

BACKGROUND

Over the last several years, due to industry-wide staffing shortages and reduced government funding, public health laboratories have found themselves having to reduce services by contracting out various types of laboratory work to other public health laboratories.

Under current regulations (Title 17), public health laboratories can only refer their work to another public health laboratory. As the number of references from these public health laboratories increases, the County's Public Health Laboratory, as a designated regional reference laboratory by the Centers for Disease Control for bioterrorism events, has been asked to provide contract services to these entities. Establishing these agreements assures greater accountability and compliance with the terms of the agreement, and formally outlines the contractual responsibilities and fees between all parties. The agreements also address legal issues regarding disease reporting responsibilities and confidentiality of protected health information.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Failure to approve the recommended action may impact the timely execution of testing services contracts and amendments.

ATTACHMENTS

- Resolution Delegating Authority for PH Lab Testing