

County of Santa Clara

Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System

Public Health



HHS05 091509


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DATE: September 15, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: 
Kim Roberts
SCVHHS - Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Various Actions Related to California Department of Public Health Agreement for Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention and Control Services

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Consider recommendations relating to sexually transmitted disease prevention and control services.

Possible action:

- a. Approve delegation of authority to Public Health Administrator, or designee, to negotiate, execute, amend, terminate, and take any and all necessary or advisable actions relating to Agreement with California Department of Public Health relating to providing sexually transmitted disease prevention and control services in an amount not to exceed \$151,826 for period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011, 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 June 30, 2011.

- b. Approve Appropriation Modification No. 045 - (\$72,768) decreasing revenue and expenditures in the Public Health Department budget. (Roll Call Vote)

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no impact on the General Fund as a result of this action. The new award in the amount of \$151,826, is for FYs 2010 and 2011. The appropriation modification addresses a decrease in funding for these services in the amount of \$72,768 in FY10, which will be addressed through the reduction of revenues and expenditures for various Object 2 (services and supplies) line items.

In an effort to retain positions, these cuts will eliminate PHD's ability to provide printed educational materials and incentives to complete states surveys, will result in a reduction of lab testing (from 400 tests to 206) and medications for treatment (from 70 doses to 15) of high-risk adolescent females identified via the Chlamydia Screening Project at juvenile justice facilities, and will greatly reduce monies for business travel/mileage for the purpose of surveillance (home visits, etc.), staff education and offices expenses/supplies.

Grant	FY09 award	FY10 award
STD Community Interventions Program (SCIP)	\$43,681	\$39,313
Chlamydia Screening Project (CLaSP)	\$30,000	\$ 21,600
Syphilis Elimination (SE)	\$45,000	\$0
Disease Investigations and Surveillance (DIS)	\$30,000	\$ 15,000

CONTRACT HISTORY

Since January 2000, the Public Health Department has been contracting with California Department of Public Health for sexually transmitted disease prevention and awareness services through an Agreement for the Chlamydia Awareness and Prevention Project (CAPP).

On October 19, 2004, the Board approved a contract with the CDPH for the Syphilis Prevention and Control Project (SPCP) which expired on December 31, 2005. Following that agreement, on April 11, 2006, the Board accepted a Letter of Award from CDPH for the Syphilis Prevention and Control Project for the period January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2008. Despite award letter, however, (and acceptance thereof) PHD did not receive a contract from CDPH prior to being notified in July 2006 that the agreement for CAPP, effective July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2009, was being amended to include SPCP services. The first amendment, which combined the two programs was received and signed via delegation of authority in March 2007.

At its December 4, 2007 meeting, the Board approved a second amendment to the agreement, which incorporated all four previously separate funding streams into one agreement: STD Community Interventions Program; Chlamydia Screening Project; Disease Investigation and Surveillance; and Syphilis Prevention and Control Project.

The Notice of Award for this new agreement, although dated May 4, 2009, was not received by Public Health Administration until June 15, 2009. Apparently the State mailed the notice to the former location for the Communicable

Disease Program at 645 S. Bascom, a building which has been demolished, despite being provided a change of address notice. This item was listed as a Pending Board Item on the August 19, 2009 Health and Hospital Committee agenda.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The new agreement from California Department of Public Health, effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011, includes funding at a reduced level for the STD Community Intervention Program, Disease Intervention and Surveillance, and Chlamydia Screening Project . The Syphilis Prevention and Control Project, previously renamed Syphilis Elimination, is no longer funded in the current contract cycle.

The goal of these programs is to facilitate, develop and enhance local capacity for the prevention, awareness and control of STDs through a process of community and health department collaborations.

The remaining grant monies will be used to fund .22 FTE of a Public Health Nurse, .08 FTE of a Public Health Manager I, and .17 FTE of a Communicable Disease Investigator in PHD Communicable Disease Prevention Program, with \$5,927 for lab testing, medications and general office expenses.

Key activities include providing health department follow-up of untreated STD patients to ensure recommended treatment, working with local and/or state epidemiologists and other available data sources to select specific high morbidity areas and priority populations to strategize and tailor activities, monitor data from local agencies such as schools and community-based organizations that serve the selected priority populations and target these agencies for training and technical assistance.

The appropriation modification will address the reduction in funding for these services, including complete elimination of funding for the Syphilis Elimination program. PHD is exploring ways to continue providing Syphilis services as part of its communicable disease investigative efforts, but is unable to continue community outreach and education to clients accessing HIV counseling and testing services and the provision of syphilis educational materials targeted to men having sex with men (MSM).

BACKGROUND

The control of sexually transmitted diseases involves tracing of sexual partners of persons exposed to these diseases. Sexually transmitted diseases infect an estimated 300,000 people in California annually. Since up to 40% of infections in men and 85% of infections in women are asymptomatic, many infections are not diagnosed and therefore go untreated. Due to the human and financial costs associated with untreated infections, and their preventable nature, STDs are a "silent epidemic", under-recognized by both the public and health care providers.

Fortunately, when diagnosed early, STDs are easy to treat with antibiotic therapy. The greatest challenge being prevention of infection and reinfection; and education of those at-risk and/or who may have asymptomatic infections. PHD's Disease Prevention and Control Program continues to provide STD awareness to the family planning provider community, schools, and other health/non-health agencies and organizations which serve high-risk populations.

As a result of severe cuts in funding for Public Health services in FY2008, PHD discontinued screening and treatment for STDs at the Crane Center. Clients are now referred to Ambulatory and Managed Care and community clinics for direct services.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Failure to approve the recommended action may impact PHD's ability to access state funding for STD education and prevention.

ATTACHMENTS

- STD Award letter from CDPH
- CDPH STD Appropriation Modification