

# County of Santa Clara

## Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System

### Public Health



HHS04 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 Public Health Department Travel/Adult Immunization Clinic

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Consider recommendations relating to Public Health Department Travel/Adult Immunization Clinic.

Possible action:

- a. Introduction and preliminary adoption of Salary Ordinance No. NS-5.10.05 amending Santa Clara County Salary Ordinance No. NS-5.10 relating to the compensation of employees adding one half-time Public Health Nurse II/I position and deleting one half-time Clinical Nurse III/II/I position in the Public Health Department. (Roll Call Vote to waive reading, Roll Call Vote to adopt)

**b. Approve Request for Appropriation Modification No. 21- \$0 transferring funds within the Public Health Department budget. (Roll Call Vote)**

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

In order to address a significant need with respect to versatility of job duties specific to infectious disease, the Public Health Department is recommending a deletion of 0.5 (vacant) Clinical Nurse III/II/I, at a savings of \$70,857 for the remainder of FY10 and \$94,476 on an annual basis, in exchange for the addition of 0.5 Public Health Nurse II/I, at a cost of \$54,954 for the remainder of FY10 and \$73,272 on an annual basis, in the Public Health Department Travel/Adult Immunization Clinic. The net savings from this action, in the amount of \$21,204 annually, will be used for transportation expenses associated with the new PHN's job duties.

There is no impact on the General Fund as a result of this action. Although costs associated with both nursing positions, the one recommended for deletion as well as the new position, are General Funded, these costs are offset by revenues generated through the collection of fees for Adult Immunization/Travel Clinic services. The FY10 revenue is currently projected to be \$670,000 for Adult Immunization/Travel Clinic and \$11,000 for flu clinic services. These revenues are included in the Public Health Department budget.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

The Public Health Travel/Adult Immunization Clinic provides two types of clinical services: 1) services to individuals of all ages who are traveling abroad and require immunizations to protect against diseases endemic to the countries to which they are traveling; and 2) general immunizations to adults who either have no insurance or who are underinsured. An average of 600 of vaccines are provided per month.

Approval of the recommended action will allow the Public Health Department greater flexibility with regard to staffing communicable disease outbreaks.

Per the job specifications of the Clinical Nurse III, "incumbents provide care to patients in a structured environment" (clinic or hospital), and as a result, generally do not have training and expertise in providing care to patients outside of this type of environment, thus limiting their ability to provide support for outbreaks of the diseases for which they provide immunization.

The job duties of the Clinical Nurse III/II/I including administration of routine adult immunizations and Tuberculin skin testing, and the provision of health education and vaccinations to clients of the Travel Clinic who are planning out of country travel will be absorbed by the PHN II/I. As a result of a decrease in the number of clients utilizing Travel Clinic services, the new Public Health Nurse position will also participate on a flu vaccination planning team, collaborate with community based organizations regarding the distribution of seasonal flu and H1N1 vaccines, provide pandemic flu investigations for hospitalized patients and outbreaks in congregate settings, and collaborate with infection control practitioners and school nurses for surveillance of influenza like symptoms in the community in an effort to prevent the spread of disease.

The Registered Nurses Professional Association (RNPA) requested to meet and confer with PHD regarding the recommendation to delete the vacant 0.5 Clinical Nurse III/II/I position. This meeting occurred on August 12, 2009. At the request of RNPA, PHD provided more information regarding the job duties specific to the new PHN II/I being recommended. Since receiving the additional information RNPA has neither indicated concurrence nor opposition to this recommendation.

On August 26, 2009, additional data regarding the number of travel and routine vaccines provided per month and number of overall client visits was also provided to RNPA.

The Employee Services Agency supports this recommendation.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

Failure to approve the recommended action may impact the ability of the Public Health Department to enhance staffing for communicable disease outbreaks.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- Appropriation Modification
- PHD Travel Clinic Salary ordinance amendment