

County of Santa Clara

Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System

Public Health



HHS04 092909


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DATE: September 29, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: 
Kim Roberts
SCVHHS - Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Various Actions Related to Public Health Department's Immunization Program

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Consider recommendations relating to the Public Health Department's Immunization Program.

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 to provide immunization program registry services in an amount not to exceed \$72,003 for period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, 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, 2010.

- b. Introduction and preliminary adoption of Salary Ordinance No. NS-5.10.21 amending Santa Clara County Salary Ordinance No. NS-5.10 relating to the compensation of employees deleting 1.0 Health Education Specialist/Health Education Associate position, 1.0 Public Health Assistant/Community Worker position, 1.0 Health Information Clerk III/II/I position, one half-time Health Information Clerk II/I position, and adding 2.0 Public Health Community Specialist positions in the Public Health Department. (Roll Call Vote to waive reading, Roll Call Vote to adopt)
- c. Approve Appropriation Modification No. 059 - (\$315,020), 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 these actions. There are two components to the appropriation modification. \$395,804 of revenues and expenses related to the Bay Area Regional Registry (BARR) are being reduced while the State award for the FY10 Immunization Program represents an increase of \$80,784 over the amount included in the FY10 Public Health Department budget. The appropriation modification reflects the net impact of these two funding changes - a decrease in revenues and expenses of \$315,020.

The Notice of Award for the reduction in Immunization Registry funding, dated July 13, 2009, was not received by Public Health Administration until the end of July 2009. This action was then listed as a Pending Board Item on the August 19, 2009 Health and Hospital Committee agenda.

The elimination of Santa Clara County's role as lead/host County for BARR results in an award loss amounting to \$395,804. This reduction will be addressed by deleting 1.0 (filled) Health Education Specialist/Health Education Associate, 1.0 (filled) Public Health Assistant/Community Worker, 1.0 (filled) Health Information Clerk III/II/I, 0.5 (filled) Health Information Clerk II/I (for a total reduction of \$203,080 in FY10 and \$304,620 annually), and a reduction in various Object 2 (services and supplies) line items.

The new Immunization Program contract award of \$1,601,147 is an increase of \$80,784 from what is currently budgeted for FY10. The recommendation is to add 2.0 Public Health Community Specialists (\$124,722 for the remainder of FY10 and \$166,296 on an annual basis) in the Public Health Department.

Because the effective date of the salary ordinance amendment is November 2, 2009, some salary costs, in an amount estimated at \$31,970 will not be covered by the grant and must be absorbed by the Department.

CONTRACT HISTORY

Immunization (IZ) Program

Since 1970, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has contracted with Santa Clara County for Immunization Program services to County residents. As a recipient of funding, the County agrees to implement a comprehensive immunization program

in order to protect against vaccine preventable diseases, disability and death. The goal is to ensure access of all Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended vaccines to the general public in an effort to work toward our Year 2010 goal of having 90% of the County's children and adolescents fully immunized. The program performs various functions including: outreach and education; quality assurance; epidemiology and surveillance of vaccine preventable disease; and clinical services for adults and travelers.

The Fiscal Year 2010 Immunization Program contract in the amount of \$1,601,147 was executed by the Public Health Administrator as authorized under the Master Contract List approved by the Board on May 19, 2009.

IZ Registry

In 1996, the Public Health Department received a grant from CDPH to plan and begin implementation of an automated registry for the purpose of tracking immunization history throughout Santa Clara County. In 1997, additional funds were awarded by CDPH to continue the deployment and implementation of the automated system in addition to adding a recall system for contacting caregivers to inform them of due dates of their childrens' immunizations.

The primary purpose of the IZ Registry system is for the recruitment and support of medical providers and other parties with immunization records; rapid collection and transfer of immunization information among participants; notifications to clients and/or providers concerning immunizations that are due; and calculation of immunization coverage rates based on patient record in the database. Currently approximately 240 providers in Santa Clara County participate in the Registry.

In 2000, Santa Clara County was designated as the lead/host county for the Bay Area Regional Registry (BARR). As lead/host county, CDPH allocated funding to the Santa Clara County's IZ Registry for staff and supplies for database maintenance (information technology services) and Health Desk support of BARR. Beginning in October of 2007, a committee of California county IZ Program providers began the process of restructuring BARR which has resulted in moving technical database maintenance services to the State, and help desk support services to another county for oversight and staffing via a contract with a non-profit agency.

As a result, Santa Clara County's lead/host for BARR and all associated funding for database maintenance and help desk support will discontinue effective September 30, 2009. Current funding indicated in the new agreement will only cover costs of IT and Help Desk staff for the first quarter of the fiscal year (July 1 – September 30, 2009). The agreement from the State in the amount of \$72,003 will cover database maintenance and help desk costs through September 30, 2009, during the transition to the new process.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

With the goal of reducing the risk of children being exposed to vaccine preventable diseases,

the Public Health Department's IZ Program staff work closely with schools and child care centers to assist them with compliance specific to state required mandates regarding immunizing children prior to entry. The most recent data available from the California Department of Public Health show that in 2007-2008, 91.3% of toddlers in

licensed childcare and 94.3% of kindergarten children in Santa Clara County are up to date on their required immunizations.

The salary ordinance amendment and appropriation modification address the reduction in funding resulting from elimination of the Public Health Department's role as lead/host county for the IZ Registry, a slight increase in funding and associated expenditures for the IZ Program, as well as some changes in staffing in order to better address the scope of work.

The job duties previously assigned to the positions recommended for deletion are no longer required or appropriate to meet the deliverables of the scope of work for IZ Program contract. The positions proposed for deletion include: 1.0 (filled) Health Education Specialist, Health Education Associate, 1.0 (filled) Public Health Assistant/Community Worker, 1.0 (filled) Health Information Clerk III/II/I, and 0.5 (filled) Health Information Clerk II/I. The effective date of the salary ordinance amendment is November 2, 2009. Normal layoff provisions will apply.

In order to better address the scope of work of the contract with CDPH, the Public Health Department is proposing the addition of 2.0 Public Health Community Specialist positions. These positions are a better skill level match for the requirements of the IZ Education objectives of the contract.

Job duties specific to the new Public Health Community Specialists will include: working with child care and kindergarten schools on selective and retrospective (expanded) surveys (and other selective reviews); conducting community outreach to child care centers and schools to distribute education materials and share key messages with staff; providing immunization information to community agencies and groups which represent communities at risk for under immunization; conducting standardized presentations with community organizations, schools and the general public; assisting in the coordination of immunization trainings for providers; assisting with the development of health education materials; and collection of data and information for reports, newsletters and evaluations/needs assessments.

SEIU Local 521 has been notified regarding these recommendations. Local 521 indicated concurrence with adding new codes, but is requesting that the proposed deleted codes be delayed and synchronized with layoffs relating to State budget reductions.

Current grant funding is not sufficient to cover the postponement of deleting the indicated codes. Therefore, if the Board were to agree to the request by Local 521, County general fund monies would be required to bridge funding through the extended layoff period.

The Employee Services Agency supports these recommendations.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Failure to approve the recommended actions may impact the Public Health Department's ability to address changes in immunization program services.

ATTACHMENTS

- Immunization Registry FY2010
- PHD Immunization Program Appropriation Modification
- Salary Ordinance Amendment No. NS-5.10.21