



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Public Health
Department No.: 041
For Agenda Of: March 15, 2022
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD, Director
Director(s) Public Health Department
Contact Info: Laura Lui, EMR Manager
805-450-6747
SUBJECT: Sixth Amendment to OCHIN Master System Agreement

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors consider the following recommendations:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute a Sixth Amendment to the Master System Agreement with Oregon Community Health Information Network (OCHIN) to exercise an option to extend the term of the Agreement through March 31, 2024 and to increase funding by \$1,782,000 for the additional two-year period for a revised total amount not to exceed \$7,142,000; and
- b) Approve and authorize the Director of Public Health, or designee, to execute a Memorandum of Agreement with OCHIN to pursue the Health Center Controlled Network funding opportunity made available by the Health Resources and Services Administration for the period of August 1, 2022 through July 31, 2025. If awarded, PHD will return to the Board for approval of an additional agreement; and
- c) Determine that the proposed actions do not constitute a "Project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines, because the actions consist of the creation of a government funding mechanism, or other government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda for your Board to approve and execute a Sixth Amendment to the Master System Agreement with OCHIN to exercise the second of three extension options for an additional two

years through March 31, 2024, and to increase funding by \$1,782,000 for the additional two-year period for a revised total amount not to exceed \$7,142,000 (Attachment A). Additionally, the Public Health Department (PHD) is requesting that the Board approve and authorize the Public Health Director to execute the OCHIN Health Center Controlled Network Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to pursue funding made available by the Health Resources and Services Administration that will focus on improvements to clinical quality, patient-centered care, and provider and staff well-being (Attachment C).

Background:

The Agreement with OCHIN was approved by the Board of Supervisors on March 21, 2017. Under the Agreement, OCHIN has provided a combined practice management system and electronic medical record (EMR) system, and professional services. PHD requires OCHIN’s continued support to maintain the practice management and EMR system.

OCHIN is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit health center-controlled network with over 500 current member organizations. OCHIN members are community health centers including more than 100 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), FQHC look-alikes, rural, and school-based health centers. The advantages of being an OCHIN member include OCHIN’s services of a full complement of the assessment, training, implementation, support, clinical oversight, quality improvement, and meaningful use efforts that PHD requires to improve productivity and performance issues. OCHIN optimizes Epic’s EHR modules for its members. OCHIN also supports PHD efforts in population health management and patient centered medical homes whereby OCHIN enhances the PHD’s secure health information exchange capabilities and web-based patient portals that let patients and doctors communicate easily, safely, and securely over the Internet.

Performance Measure:

The OCHIN EMR contains tools and functionality to restrict access to highly sensitive patient care and treatment information (e.g. substance abuse treatment information) and has the ability to document each individual that has accessed the EMR and the information they have viewed.

PHD and the Outside Entities are mutually responsible for maintaining patient protected information from unauthorized access and improper disclosure of this information.

The OCHIN Health Center Controlled Network MOA requires PHD engagement and operational input into the metrics defined in the MOA. OCHIN will take on the responsibilities around report and metric updates for any agreed upon measures defined for the MOA. The measure requirements currently align well with projected projects and goals for the PHD clinics using EPIC and this grant is an excellent opportunity to get some funding and training resources to help meet our goals while also striving to remain fiscally compliant.

Contract Renewals and Performance Outcomes:

OCHIN has been providing the combined practice management system and EMR system since 2017 and has provided excellent services. This Amendment exercises the option to extend the term for an additional two years.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal	\$ 72,800.00	\$ 297,000.00	
Patient Service Fees	\$ 147,700.00	\$ 603,000.00	
Total	\$ 220,500.00	\$ 900,000.00	\$ -

Approval of Recommended Action A will allow the department to continue its membership in OCHIN and its use of the OCHIN-supplied Epic Electronic Health Record and Practice Management system at an estimated cost of approximately \$900,000 per year. These costs are funded by a combination of Federal Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) grant funds and generated patient service fees from Medi-Cal, Medicare, and other public programs.

Key Contract Risks:

At this juncture, the PHD Health Care Centers have been using OCHIN EPIC for approximately 4 years. There are no newly identified risks with continuing this contract in its current state with this vendor.

As with any large system, and especially a system that contains protected health information, there are inherent security risks that are associated with cyber security threats. There is also an unavoidable risk associated with staff accessing protecting health information.

The cybersecurity risks are mitigated by having a Business Associate Agreement (BAA) in place as well as annual required cybersecurity awareness training for all staff. This helps protect us and arm the staff with education to help defend against cybersecurity threats.

The PHD compliance team helps mitigate and avoid issues related to Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) and the accessing of protected health information, by requiring an annual HIPAA training for all staff and through audit policies.

We are also requesting board approval to sign the OCHIN Health Center Controlled Network MOA which has minimal risks. Much of the risk is placed on OCHIN as the deliverables and HRSA reporting requirements require OCHIN to complete the reports and analysis for the grant. This will be dependent on good communication and input from our OCHIN representative but quarterly meetings are already scheduled and implemented to ensure communication is upheld and mitigate communication risk.

Staffing Impacts:

<u>Legal Positions:</u>	<u>FTEs:</u>
0	0

Special Instructions:

Please execute two (2) original Sixth Amendments to the Agreement with OCHIN and retain one (1) original Agreement and one (1) Minute Order for pick-up by the department. Please email Kelly.Lazarus@sbcphd.org when available for pickup.

Attachments:

- A. Sixth Amendment to the OCHIN Professional Services Agreement
- B. OCHIN Professional Services Agreement
- C. OCHIN Health Center Controlled Network Memorandum of Agreement

Authored by:

Laura Lui, EMR Manager