



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 Dept.
Department No.: 041
For Agenda Of: June 17, 2008
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Elliot Schulman, MD, MPH, Director and Health Officer
Director Public Health Department
Contact Info: Michele Mickiewicz, MPH, Deputy Director 681-5446
SUBJECT: Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Services Contract Template

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes No N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes No N/A

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes No N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

Authorize the Public Health Director to execute agreements with local law enforcement agencies for legal-medical examinations and coordination of services for suspected sexual abuse and sexual assault services using the contract template approved as to form by County Counsel, Auditor and Risk Management.

Summary Text:

The Public Health Department (PHD) provides medical-legal examinations and the District Attorney's Office (DA) provides administrative and coordination services in Santa Barbara County for suspected sexual abuse and sexual assault. The PHD, DA, and all county law enforcement agencies have agreed to implement the new per-capita funding methodology in the attached template. This will minimize administrative costs and maximize funds for core Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) services. The contract template defines the expectations and the new funding methodology. PHD staff have met with and reached agreement on this new SART contract template with all law enforcement agencies in Santa Barbara County. The per capita methodology does not markedly increase the amount paid for this program to any jurisdiction. In addition, these fees have been incorporated into the Sheriff's Department 08-09 recommended budget.

Background:

SART began in Santa Barbara County in 1986 as an initiative between the Public Health Department, District Attorney, County Executive Office, law enforcement, County Counsel, and the Department of Social Services. The goal was to use a multidisciplinary approach to assure that sexual abuse survivors

Subject: SART Services Contract Template

Agenda Date: June 17, 2008

2 of 2

receive care in the most positive therapeutic environment possible through a medical-legal examination, medical treatment, emotional support, advocacy, counseling referrals, and other support services for the victim and his/her family. Over the years, the collaborative has grown to 21 SART partners.

Historically, law enforcement agencies paid for medical legal examination services on a fee-for-service basis for each exam provided. There was a single SART exam location and the complex and specialized services for sexual assault victims were provided via the SART collaborative. The SART Coordinator position was provided via a private non-profit organization and the costs for this position were covered by grants. Over time as service demands grew in all regions of the county, there was a need to look at expanding service locations and providing a more formalized system of program coordination in order to meet the needs of sexual assault victims and law enforcement into the future.

A thorough assessment of the SART program was completed and a number of key service enhancements were implemented as a result. A new SART exam facility was added in Santa Maria so there are now SART exam facilities Santa Barbara, Lompoc, and Santa Maria. In January 2008, the SART program coordinator position was incorporated in the District Attorney’s Office to provide leadership, county-wide presence, infrastructure and organizational capacity. The DA investigators were trained in forensic interviewing with child sexual assault victims in the north county (This service is provided in South County by the non-profit agency Child Abuse Listening & Mediation). A new model for training, mentoring, and scheduling nurse examiners began to provide for consistent 24/7 nurse and physician SART examiner coverage. Policies and procedures have been put in place to support the quality and consistency of the services. All of these changes have had a positive impact on the availability and quality of the services.

In order to cover the staffing and service costs of providing consistent, 24/7 response and service in both North and South County, a change in funding methodology was needed. After researching other SART programs in California counties and discussions with local partners, a per capita methodology was identified as the most effective option. The per capita methodology more fairly allocates the costs of maintaining system readiness based on their percentage of the population in Santa Barbara County. The per capita methodology allocates the cost of maintaining a system for response on behalf of all jurisdictions on a 24/7 basis regardless of the number of assaults that occur in a particular jurisdiction. In addition, it provides for better cost management because it allows jurisdictions to budget for SART exam services based on a pre-determined amount. It also eliminates the administrative costs associated with individual bills and processing. Most importantly, the new funding methodology along with SART service enhancements eliminate the time that was required for law enforcement personnel to transport victims to a SART cottage location in another area of the county.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Authorizing the Public Health Director to use the new contract template for SART services has no monetary impact. Each agreement executed will collect the appropriate approved per capita fee. The template language speaks to future fee changes and the mechanism to make the change.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:
0

FTEs:
0

Special Instructions: Please return an electronic copy of the Minute Order to the PHD Contracts Unit at PHDRES.ContractsUnit@sbcphd.org.

Attachments: Contract Template for Legal-Medical Exam Services

Authored by: Susan Klein-Rothschild, Assistant Deputy Director, Public Health Department