



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

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

Agenda Number:

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: County Health Department
Department No.: 041
Agenda Date: May 5, 2026
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director: Mouhanad Hammami, County Health

Contact: Lars Seifert, Deputy Director County Health, Operations

Signed by:
Mouhanad Hammami
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SUBJECT: Memorandum of Understanding for the California Pathways Into Public Health Initiative (Pathways) between the County of Santa Barbara and the California Department of Public Health for the Internship Program

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve, ratify, and authorize the County Health Director, or designee, to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for the California Pathways into Public Health Initiative to authorize placement of interns paid by CDPH in the County of Santa Barbara Health Department for the time period of April 18, 2026 through June 30, 2027;
- b) Approve and authorize the Director of County Health, or designee, to modify or terminate the MOU in accordance with section IX, E., upon review and approval by County Counsel, subject to the Board’s ability to rescind this delegated authority at any time; and
- c) Determine that the recommended actions do not constitute a “Project” within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and are exempt pursuant to Section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines, since the recommended actions are the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities that do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

This item requests approval to revise the existing agreement with the California Department of Public Health to continue participation in the Pathways program, which places public health interns within County Health. The revised agreement limits placements to interns only and allows County Health to continue serving as a host site for this workforce development program.

Through this program, interns will be placed across a range of County Health programs in Santa Barbara County, including clinical services, administrative and support functions, animal services, environmental health, emergency medical services, and emergency preparedness. Interns will assist with activities such as patient support, health education, program coordination, community outreach, and operational support, while gaining hands-on experience in public health practice.

These placements support service delivery and help build a pipeline of trained public health professionals. If the Board does not approve this agreement, County Health will no longer be able to participate in the program and will lose the opportunity to host interns through this initiative.

Discussion:

The Pathways Internship Program is a collaboration between CDPH and the University of California San Francisco. CDPH creates a workforce pathway for early-career public health professionals from diverse backgrounds and disproportionately affected communities to ensure a well-trained public health workforce across California that can effectively and efficiently respond to public health issues to ensure the health and safety of the population. Development and implementation of CDPH Pathways will create opportunities to engage community members, deliver culturally competent services, and enhance public health practice. This MOU provides a foundational understanding between County Health and CDPH, that any interns/trainees will assist and provide support to their assigned program in carrying out public health activities.

Approval of the MOU will supersede the current agreement and allow County Health to continue serving as a host site for the program, with an effective date of April 18, 2026. Failure to approve the MOU will result in County Health no longer being able to participate in the Pathway Internship Program. CDPH has requested a revision to the MOU to eliminate fellow placements, thereby limiting participation to interns only. This MOU change does not have an impact because there are no fellows currently placed with CHD.

Background:

County Health received approval from the Board of Supervisors at the September 21, 2021, Board meeting to execute an agreement with CDPH for the Public Health Corps Training and Pathways Program Project. This approval allowed for the successful placement of an intern who worked with County Health for two (2) years. This intern was ultimately hired at County Health and remains a valuable employee. The existing MOU, approved by the Board of Supervisors on June 4, 2024, is currently in effect through June 30, 2026.

Performance Measure:

No identifying, quantifiable performance measures exist in the agreement. As the host site, County Health agrees to provide the intern with the training and support necessary to complete their work and to take steps necessary to ensure that the intern's physical safety is prioritized at all times. The program leaders will also be responsible for completing all evaluations provided by CDPH regarding

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the overall program and the trainee's ability to meet host site-stated goals, objectives, and milestones. These preceptors are also expected to regularly attend preceptor and group events.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Approving, ratifying, and authorizing the MOU with CDPH will result in no new costs. There are minimal costs associated with trainee personnel being assigned a computer and telephone. These costs are included in the FY 2025-26 adjusted budget and the FY 2026-27 recommended budget.

Staffing Impacts:

Existing staff will provide supervision and mentorship as part of normal operations. No additional staffing is required.

Special Instructions:

Please email the Minute Order to the County Health Contracts Unit at phdcu@sbcpd.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A – California Pathways into Public Health (Pathways) Initiative MOU

Contact Information:

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