

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 10/7/02
Department Name: Public Health
Department No.: 041
Agenda Date: 10/22/02
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Roger E. Heroux, Director
Public Health Department

STAFF CONTACT: Tara Brown, Assistant Director
681-5217

SUBJECT: Robotic Prescription Dispensing System

Recommendations:

That the Board of Supervisors:

Approve waiver of the competitive bid requirement and authorize the Purchasing Manager to enter into an agreement with ScriptPro, a non-local vendor, for a robotic prescription dispensing system in the amount of \$144,000 plus \$21,125 for computer interface and installation, and \$2,580 for the first six months of maintenance for a total of \$168,705.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendations are primarily aligned with Goal No. 2 Community Health and Safety: A safe and healthy community in which to live, work, and visit.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

In order to build capacity for the future in the Public Health Department's Pharmacy Services program, the Department contracted with Seifert and Associates to evaluate and make recommendations to guide operational reform. In August of 2000, their report was released which listed the "complete modernization of the Santa Barbara Pharmacy facility to increase productivity and provide an effective work environment", as the number one recommendation.

On July 9, 2002, your Board approved the plans and specifications for a project to remodel the pharmacy at the County Health Clinic at 345 Camino del Remedio and authorized the General Services Department to advertise the project for public bidding. Construction began on Monday, September 30, 2002.

One of the most dramatic ways to increase productivity, reduce wait times, and eliminate medication errors is by automating the repetitive, manual dispensing tasks most subject to human error. A robotic prescription dispensing system, interfaced with the pharmacy computer, delivers filled and labeled vials at a rate of 100 prescriptions per hour, a rate three to four times faster than manually. It handles tablets and capsules of all

shapes and sizes, prints and applies the prescription label, and delivers uncapped vials for final inspection and on-screen drug image verification. Bar codes, used throughout the process, ensure accuracy and quality.

The Department plans to install a robotic dispensing unit as part of the Santa Barbara pharmacy remodel. The unit will help accommodate the increased patient demand that the Department has experienced in the past and future demand expected with the expansions of the Carpinteria, Lompoc, and Franklin Center clinics. It will allow time for staff pharmacists to work alongside physicians in asthma, diabetic, and hypertension control clinics. Although, there is no plan to reduce pharmacists at this time, the robotic system will allow the Department to handle personnel shortages and evaluate the ongoing need for staff when there is attrition.

There are only three manufacturers of robotic pharmacy dispensing systems. The Department obtained informal bids from McKesson Automated Prescription Systems, QuickScript Plus System, and the ScriptPro system. The ScriptPro system was the lowest bidder. The unique aspects that staff found with the ScriptPro system were maintenance costs that include replacement of all parts at no additional cost and a strong history of product support. The Department is requesting that your Board accept this evaluation and informal bid process and grant sole source to ScriptPro so that the robotic dispensing system can be installed during the pharmacy remodel.

Mandates and Service Levels:

No change in mandates or service levels.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The cost of purchasing the ScriptPro 200 robotic prescription dispensing system is \$144,000, plus \$3,000 for a computer interface, and \$19,125 for installation and training. The ongoing monthly cost of full service customer support and replacement of all parts is \$430 a month. This is government pricing. The system is being funded with the Department's designated special revenue funds for capital outlay. The funds will be appropriate as a budget adjustment to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2002-03 budget for the Public Health Department. The Pharmacy Remodel increased the Pharmacy Services cost center expenditures on page D-170 of the FY 2002-03 budget from \$2,844,014 to \$2,971,599. This capital equipment purchase will increase the Pharmacy Services cost center expenditure to \$3,140,304.

Special Instructions:

None

Concurrence:

Not Applicable