



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

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: County Health Department
Department No.: 041
Agenda Date: May 20, 2025
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Mouhanad Hammami, Director, County Health Department
Contact Info: Anne Carlisle, Manager of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention, 805-681-5280
SUBJECT: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Data Sharing and Use Agreement for Participation in the National Syndromic Surveillance Program

Signed by:
Mouhanad Hammami
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County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- Approve and authorize the Chair to execute a Data Use Agreement (DUA) (Attachment A) with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and County of Santa Barbara Health (County Health) for participation in the National Syndromic Surveillance Program (NSSP). The DUA will remain in effect for a period of one year, beginning May 13, 2025 and terminating on May 12, 2026;
- Approve and authorize the Director of County Health, or designee, to make and sign any required representations or certifications in accordance with the DUA; and
- Determine that the recommended actions are not a "Project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and are exempt per CEQA Guideline Section 15378(b)(4), since the recommended actions are creation of a governmental funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities that do not involve commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to authorize execution of a DUA with the CDC for the County's participation in syndromic surveillance, a process that regularly and systematically uses health, public health, and health-related data in near real-time to make information on the health of a community available to public health officials and government leaders for decision making and enhanced responses to hazardous events and outbreaks.

Background:

Syndromic surveillance is a collaborative effort between local and State health departments, CDC, and other partners; it provides public health officials with a timely system for detecting, understanding, and monitoring health events. Syndromic data is de-identified and can serve as an early warning system for public health concerns, it has been used in response to flu outbreaks, opioid overdoses, e-cigarette or vaping product use associated lung injury, Zika virus infection, and natural disasters, among other concerns. The CDC's NSPP brings together the CDC, federal partners, local and State health departments, and academic and private sector partners that have formed a community of practice to use data for community health planning purposes. Additionally, the NSPP provides access to and use of the cloud-based BioSense Platform, a secure integrated electronic health information system with standardized analytic tools and processes. This allows the more than 6,000 contributing public health practitioners to use timely and actionable data to detect, characterize, monitor, and respond to events of public health concern. Although the agreement allows County Health to input data into the platform, County Health will not be inputting data and will only use the platform to download de-identifiable data from local hospitals and urgent care centers for the purpose of data analysis.

Key Contractual Risks:

County Health's Information Technology team have ensured the de-identified data will be stored and shared securely. There are multiple policies, procedures, and trainings in place to minimize the risk of a breach.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There is no fiscal impact as a result of this agreement, as it is a no cost agreement and there are no ongoing costs for licensure or maintenance of this platform.

Special Instructions:

Please return one signed DUA and one Certified Minute Order to the CHD Group Contracts Unit at phdcu@sbcphd.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A – CDC National Syndromic Surveillance Program Data Sharing and Use Agreement

Authored by:

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