

# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



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

## Agenda Number:

**Prepared on:** 5/24/2005  
**Department:** Public Health Department  
**Budget Unit:** 041  
**Agenda Date:** 06/07/05  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Elliot Schulman, MD, MPH, Director and Health Officer  
Public Health Department

**STAFF CONTACT:** Susan Lindman, RN, PHN (extension 5452)  
Director, Chronic Disease and Aging

**SUBJECT:** Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP) Contract MS-0506-15

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## Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Consider recommendations regarding the Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP) Contract MS-0506-15, as follows:

- A. Approve and execute Agreement Number MS-0506-15 with the California Department of Aging and the County of Santa Barbara Public Health Department for the Multipurpose Senior Services Program for the period July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006 in the amount of \$799,930.
- B. Approve and execute Certification to legally bind the County of Santa Barbara Public Health Department to the clauses: Statement of Compliance; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements; National Labor Relations Board Certification; Union Organizing; Conflict of Interest; and, Corporate Qualifications to do Business in California.

## Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with:

Goal No. 2. A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit;  
Goal No. 5. A High Quality of Life for All Residents.

**Executive Summary and Discussion:** The Public Health Department has provided the Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP), a comprehensive care management program for frail elderly clients since 1984. These clients are seniors who meet the following criteria:

- sixty-five (65) years or older
- Medicare and Medi-Cal recipients
- certifiable for placement in a nursing facility
- wish to remain in the community in their own living environment

The goal of the program is to arrange for and monitor the use of services to provide a safe living situation in the community and to prevent or delay premature institutional placement of these frail elderly clients. The services must be provided at a lower cost than that for nursing facility care. Care management activities include identification and coordination of existing services and the purchase of waived services that enable the person to remain at home. Some of the waived services provided include respite for caregivers, in-home assistance on weekends, escort transportation to medical appointments, home delivered meals, purchase of emergency response systems and minor home repair or maintenance. Clients eligible for the program must live within the site's service area, be able to be served within MSSP's cost limitations and be appropriate for care management services.

This program is a cost-effective alternative to the high cost of long-term institutional care. Cost effectiveness is defined as the program's ability to provide community-based care for clients which is below 95% of the average monthly public cost of a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) or an Intermediate Care Facility (ICF). According to a study by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (source: CMS 372 for MSSP, 2002-03), each MSSP client saves \$9,870 (36%) annually over the cost of nursing home care: \$17,600 in total Medi-Cal State and Federal costs versus \$27,470 average Medi-Cal nursing home cost.

**Mandates and Service Levels:** This is a non-mandated program. Acceptance of the MSSP Agreement obligates the County to comply with the applicable statutes: Home and Community-Based Waiver Program, Section 1915 (c) of the Social Security Act. The MSSP program was established by Chapter 1434, Statutes of 1982. Additionally, Chapter 1318, Statutes of 1989, authorized the program to remain in effect so long as a federal waiver has been granted. The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare reauthorized the MSSP waiver for an additional five years, through June 30, 2009. The service level in Santa Barbara County will remain at two hundred (200) frail elderly residents per month.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:** Approving and executing this Agreement with the California Department of Aging allows the County of Santa Barbara to be reimbursed from the State of California for \$799,930 of the \$936,902 cost associated with providing services for the MSSP clients. Existing General Fund dollars are used to offset the unrecoverable portion of direct (\$74,059) and indirect costs (\$62,913) totaling \$136,972. The MSSP program is included in the Public Health Department's Fiscal Year 05-06 recommended budget in the Chronic Disease and Aging cost center of the Community Health division.

This Agreement will not result in any additional need for facilities.

**Special Instructions:**

Please return four (4) original signed Standard Agreements, four (4) Certified Minute Orders referencing the agreement number **MS-0506-15**, and the original signed Certification to PHD Contracts Unit, 300 North San Antonio Road, Building 8, Santa Barbara, CA 93110 **Attn: Margaret Granger (805) 681 5367**.

**Concurrence:** None required.