



**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: Public Health
Department No.: 041
For Agenda Of: December 10, 2024
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Public Health Department Mouhanad Hammami, Director
Director: Public Health Department
Contact Info: Paola Hurtado, Assistant Deputy Director, Primary Care & Family Health Division, (805-698-2418)

SUBJECT: OCHIN Health Center Controlled Network Memorandum of Agreement: 2025-2028

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Director of Public Health, or designee, to execute a Memorandum of Agreement with OCHIN to pursue the Health Center Controlled Network funding opportunity made available by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for the period of August 1, 2025 through July 31, 2028. If awarded, PHD will return to the Board for approval of an additional agreement; and
- b) Determine that the proposed action does not constitute a "Project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines, because the action consists of the creation of a government funding mechanism, or other government fiscal activity, which does not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant impact on the environment.

Summary:

The Public Health Department (PHD) is requesting the Board approve and authorize the Public Health Director, or designee, to execute the OCHIN Health Center Controlled Network Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to pursue funding options made available by HRSA that will focus on improvements to clinical quality, patient-centered care, and provider and staff well-being (Attachment A). OCHIN provides health information technology to PHD.

Discussion:

Participation in OCHIN's HRSA-funded Health Center Controlled Network (HCCN) through this MOA allows the PHD to receive dedicated, no-cost support from the network to support health centers in leveraging health information technology and data to enhance how they deliver affordable, accessible, and high-quality primary health care. Throughout the MOA period, the PHD will have access to a wide variety of resources and technical assistance. Activities will be focused in three areas:

- 1) **Analysis and Evaluation:** support an increased understanding of trends, themes, opportunities, and barriers relative to the PHD's Health Center goals and objectives;
- 2) **Innovation and Implementation:** create or improve a product, service, or functionality which will benefit all participating health centers or a targeted group of participating health centers as they pursue award goals and objectives; and
- 3) **Training and Technical Assistance:** individually tailored activities designed to help meet award goals and objectives.

Background:

OCHIN is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit HCCN with over 500 current member organizations. OCHIN members are community health centers including more than 100 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), FQHC look-alikes, rural, and school-based health centers. OCHIN has been providing the combined practice management system and Electronic Health Record (EHR) system to the PHD since 2017 and has provided excellent services.

The benefits of being an OCHIN member include its comprehensive services, which encompass assessment, training, implementation, support, clinical oversight, quality improvement, and meaningful use efforts necessary for PHD to enhance productivity and address performance issues. OCHIN optimizes Epic's EHR modules for its members. OCHIN also supports PHD efforts in population health management and patient centered medical homes whereby OCHIN enhances the PHD's secure health information exchange capabilities and web-based patient portals that let patients and doctors communicate easily, safely, and securely over the Internet.

Contract Risk, Renewals and Performance Outcomes:

We are requesting board approval to sign the OCHIN HCCN MOA which has minimal risks. Much of the risk is placed on OCHIN as the deliverables and HRSA reporting requirements require OCHIN to complete the reports and analysis for the grant. Quarterly meetings between OCHIN and PHD have been scheduled to maintain effective communication and reduce potential risks.

Fiscal Analysis:

There are no costs associated with this memorandum of agreement.

Special Instructions to Clerk of the Board:

Please return an electronic copy of the Minute Order to the PHD Contracts Unit at phdcu@sbcphd.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A - OCHIN Health Center Controlled Network Memorandum of Agreement

Authored by:

Paola Hurtado, Assistant Deputy Director, Primary Care and Family Health