



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

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA LETTER

**Department Name:**

District Attorney

**Department Number:**

021

**Agenda Date:**

June 23, 2026

**Placement:**

Administrative Agenda

**Estimated Time:**

N/A

**Continued Item:**

No

**If Yes, date from:**

<Insert Date>

**Vote Required:**

Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Director: John T. Savrnock, District Attorney

**CONTACT:** Michael Soderman, Chief Financial & Administrative Officer

**SUBJECT:** Agreement with Dignity Health for Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Medical Program Operations

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**Concurrences:**

**County Counsel Concurrence:**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence:**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence: Risk Management**

As to form: Yes

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**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with Dignity Health for primary programmatic management of the Santa Barbara

County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) medical program operations, in an amount not to exceed \$310,226, for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027; and

- b) Determine that the above recommended actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4) because they consist of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities, which 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 is before your Board for approval and execution of an Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with Dignity Health to serve as the primary contractor for SART medical program operations, effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, in an amount not to exceed \$310,226. This Agreement formalizes the transition of SART programmatic management from the Santa Barbara County Health Department to Dignity Health and establishes the financial, operational, and compliance framework governing Dignity Health's role as program medical administrator.

### **Discussion:**

The District Attorney's Office is requesting approval of an Agreement with Dignity Health to assume primary programmatic responsibility for the SART medical program. Under this Agreement, Dignity Health will administer Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) workforce onboarding, Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) licensure and compliance at all three SART examination sites (Santa Barbara, Lompoc, and Santa Maria), and day-to-day coordination of SART medical operations through a dedicated SART Nurse Coordinator position.

SANE examiners who perform forensic medical examinations will remain independent contractors of the County of Santa Barbara and will be paid directly by the County. Funding for the District Attorney's Office contracted SANE examiners has not yet been fully identified. The office is actively pursuing grant opportunities, donations, available Cal OES reimbursements, and enhanced cost-sharing arrangements with participating local law enforcement agencies with the goal of maximizing cost recovery and minimizing the County's ongoing General Fund contribution to the program. Dignity Health will function as the administrative and programmatic oversight body for SART medical operations, while the District Attorney's Office retains authority over SART clinical policies and procedures, program funding, and direct management of SANE contractor agreements.

The Agreement includes a Statement of Work (Exhibit A) that specifies Dignity Health's scope of services, performance standards, deliverables, and the complete FY 2026-27 program budget. Key governance provisions include quarterly program reviews between Dignity Health's Chief Nursing Officer and the District Attorney's SART Coordinator.

### **Background:**

SART is a countywide coalition of public and private agencies established in 1987 to provide timely, trauma-informed forensic medical examinations and coordinated support services to survivors of sexual assault and child sexual abuse. SART operates at three dedicated examination sites in Santa Barbara, Lompoc, and Santa Maria, and is administered by the District Attorney's Office through its Victim-Witness Assistance Program.

Since 2008, the Santa Barbara County Health Department has served as the primary administrative contractor for SART medical operations, including management of SANE workforce credentialing, CLIA licensure, and day-to-day coordination of forensic medical examinations. As the County Health Department transitions away from this administrative role, the District Attorney's Office has identified Dignity Health as the appropriate successor contractor given its existing physical presence at the Santa Maria SART examination site, its established relationship with the SART program, and its capacity as a CommonSpirit Health facility to provide the administrative infrastructure required for continued program operations.

This Agreement with Dignity Health establishes the framework for this transition, addressing programmatic responsibility, financial structure, dual-role guardrails, CLIA licensure, information technology and patient file separation, and governance.

### **Performance Measure:**

The Agreement establishes the following performance standards and deliverables against which Dignity Health's performance will be monitored:

- **SANE Response Time:** Examiners must respond to a call or page within 15 minutes and arrive on-site within one (1) hour of activation. The SART Nurse Coordinator will monitor and report compliance monthly.
- **Forensic Examination Coverage:** Each SANE examiner is expected to fulfill a minimum of five (5) on-call days per month. Coverage gaps must be reported to the SART Nurse Coordinator.
- **Credentialing and Onboarding:** All active SANE contractors must have complete, current credentialing files on file with Dignity Health prior to assignment, including licensure verification, background check, HIPAA training, and competency review.
- **CLIA Licensure:** Renewal applications for all three examination sites must be filed no later than September 30, 2026.
- **Monthly Financial Reporting:** Dignity Health must submit program financial reports and invoices to the District Attorney's Office no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> calendar day following the close of each month.
- **Evidence Chain of Custody:** Dignity Health's SART Nurse Coordinator will track SANE Case Worksheet submission for every examination and flag incomplete submissions to the District Attorney's SART Coordinator within five (5) business days.
- **Quarterly Program Reviews:** Dignity Health's Chief Nursing Officer and the District Attorney's SART Coordinator will meet no less than quarterly to review program performance, financial status, and compliance metrics.

### **Contract Renewals:**

None

### **Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes.

### **Fiscal Analysis:**

The total contract amount with Dignity Health for operation of SART medical program operations in FY 2026-27 is \$310,226. This amount includes funding for a SART Nurse Coordinator, medical director oversight and case reviews, pediatric examinations, court testimony, services and supplies, and

indirect administrative cost recovery at a rate of 20 percent. After applying prior-year contributions from participating law enforcement agencies including the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office, University of California, Santa Barbara Police Department, Guadalupe Police Department, Lompoc Police Department, Santa Barbara Police Department, and Santa Maria Police Department, totaling \$213,100, the remaining cost to the County is \$97,126. This amount is funded through existing District Attorney's Office appropriations and County General Fund support.

Costs associated with contracted SANE services are not included in the Dignity Health agreement. SANE examiner costs are estimated at approximately \$165,800 annually, depending on the number of examinations performed. An existing General Fund allocation of \$54,974 within the District Attorney's FY 2026-27 budget will partially offset these costs, leaving an estimated annual funding gap of up to \$110,826.

The District Attorney's Office will continue to work with the County Executive Office to actively pursue additional public and private funding opportunities to offset SANE examiner costs. Should sufficient funding not be secured, the District Attorney's Office will return to the Board with a funding recommendation prior to incurring expenditures beyond existing appropriations.

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>FY 2026-27 Agreement Cost</b>	<b>Total</b>
General Fund	\$97,126	<b>\$97,126</b>
State		
Federal		
Fees	\$213,100	<b>\$213,100</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$310,226</b>	<b>\$310,226</b>

**Special Instructions:**

Please email a copy of the following items to John DeAlba, DA Department Business Specialist:

- a) One (1) Minute Order; and
- b) One (1) duplicate fully-executed original of the Agreement.

**Attachments:**

**Attachment A** – Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with Dignity Health

**Contact Information:**

John DeAlba  
 Department Business Specialist  
 jodealba@countyofsb.org