

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 1/4/02
Department Name: Public Health Department
Department No.: 041
Agenda Date: 2/5/02
Placement: Departmental
Estimate Time: 30 Minutes
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Naomi Schwartz, First District Supervisor
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SUBJECT: Emergency and Disaster Planning for Vulnerable Populations

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Accept a progress report on Emergency and Disaster Planning for Vulnerable Populations for the period of May 1, 2001 to February 5, 2002.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation is primarily aligned with:

Goal No. II. A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

At the request of Supervisor Naomi Schwartz, and through funding by the State Emergency Medical Services Authority, the Public Health Department's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency and the Fire Department's Office of Emergency Services (OES) have been collaborating on the development of a disaster response plan to meet the needs of vulnerable populations following a large scale emergency or disaster. Vulnerable populations are defined as people who would not be able to act independently and safely for a variety of reasons. The definition includes:

- People with short term acute illnesses or chronic disabilities
- Frail seniors, other adults and children with disabling acute or chronic illnesses/conditions
- People with disabling chronic or acute mental illness

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency, through a \$127,000.00 two (2) year grant from Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA), convened a countywide task force of public, private, and community based organizations to develop a written plan (Attachment A). The task force consists of American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Area Agency on Aging, Direct Relief International, Inc., Family Services Agency, Help Unlimited, Community Partners in Caring, Alpha Resource Center, Tri-Counties Regional Center, Housing Authority, LIV Home, Coast Caregivers Resource Center, Santa Barbara Association of Home Care Providers, Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Independent Living Resource Center, Easy Lift, SMOOTH, local hospitals, fire, police, and sheriff departments as well as representatives of the Public Guardian's Office, Department of Social Services, the Santa Barbara County Fire Department, OES, the Public Health Department, and EMS Agency.

The EMS Agency has received \$64,094.00 as an additional year of funding for the period of October 1, 2001 to September 30, 2002 to implement the plan developed during the first two (2) years.

Significant Accomplishments since the Board Report on May 1, 2001

To date, the task force has:

- Completed the written Emergency and Disaster Plan for Vulnerable Populations. The plan is divided into three (3) sections: pre-event or preparedness; response to the incident; and, recovery from the incident. Each section delineates the responsibility of: the individual, the care providers, the community-based agencies, and the public agencies
- Planned outreach to skilled nursing facilities, board and care homes, and other residential care facilities through an agreement with the Long Term Care Ombudsman Services to educate their staff about disaster planning, response and recovery.
- Planned outreach to community-based organizations and family caregivers who provide services to vulnerable populations through an agreement with the Adult and Aging Network to educate vulnerable populations, their families, and caregivers about the need to be self-sustaining for at least seventy-two (72) hours following an emergency or disaster.
- Co-sponsored three (3) conferences on disaster readiness through Santa Barbara City College Continuing Education Division on March 8, April 25, and October 17, 2001 through Allan Hancock Community College to begin to educate caregivers and long-term care facility staff and the public on sheltering, evacuation, and emotional trauma associated with disasters
- Continued to identify the vulnerable populations through Geographical Information System (GIS) maps
- Continued to participate in the State Shelter Medical Group task force to implement twenty-seven (27) recommendations for county and state agencies' response to the vulnerable populations needs during an emergency or a disaster

The Office of Emergency Services (OES) has:

- Provided Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) throughout the County, including cities of Lompoc, Santa Barbara, Cuyama, and Santa Maria (Attachment B).

The Public Health Department (PHD) has:

- Chaired the task force on Disaster Preparedness for Vulnerable Populations and taken a lead role in preparing the Disaster Plan.
- Updated the PHD disaster plan
- Continued to chair the Disaster Preparedness Advisory Committee (DPAC)

Next Steps

Due to additional funding from the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA), the EMS Agency of the Public Health Department will accomplish the following objectives from October 1, 2001 through September 30, 2002:

1. Implement the Emergency and Disaster Plan for Vulnerable Populations
2. Train County staff, emergency response agencies, community providers, vulnerable populations, and their families so there is a comprehensive, coordinated effort to quickly locate and evacuate people to a safe location and provide appropriate shelter and services in an emergency or disaster.
3. Educate the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and the Department Heads about the Emergency and Disaster Plan for Vulnerable Populations
4. Update the Geographical Information System (GIS) to identify high concentrations of vulnerable populations and help coordinate disaster response.
5. Complete all contractual obligations with the State of California Emergency Medical Services Authority.
6. Continue to chair the task force on Disaster Preparedness for Vulnerable Populations.

The Office of Emergency Services (OES) will do the following:

- Incorporate the Public Health Department's Emergency and Disaster Plan for Vulnerable Populations into the county Multi-Hazard Functional Plan revisions
- Continue to provide Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) throughout the County, including cities of Lompoc, Santa Barbara, Cuyama, and Santa Maria (Attachment B)
- Work with the Public Health Department's Emergency Medical Services through community outreach and education (pamphlets, facilitation, scenarios, table top exercises)
- Continue to participate in the Emergency and Disaster Planning Task Force.

"The first 72 is up to you"

Key to the successful implementation of the disaster response effort is educating the public that "The first 72 is up to you." The responsibility for disaster preparedness lies with each of us as individuals. People who need special assistance in a time of disaster **must** prepare by having a workable disaster plan that they have shared with others, practiced, and kept current.

When the grant ends September 30, 2002, the PHD Emergency Medical Services will continue to maintain information about the location of high concentrations of vulnerable populations and work with the OES to provide ongoing training of County staff and emergency response agencies throughout the County. However, there is no identified source of funds for ongoing staffing of a task force focused on vulnerable populations, developing or printing educational materials specific to frail and disabled populations, or providing education and training to community providers and individuals with disabling conditions.

Mandates and Service Levels:

There is no specific mandate regarding disaster response for vulnerable populations.

The educational aspects of the plan are new services provided through the third year of funding through Emergency Medical Services Authority from October 1, 2001 through September 30, 2002.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Accepting this progress report will not result in an increased use of General Fund contribution or use of special revenue funds for the Public Health Department. Funding for the implementation of the Emergency and Disaster Plan for Vulnerable Populations has been secured through a one (1) year implementation grant from the State Agency of Emergency Medical Services in the amount of \$64,094.00. In the second year of the grant, ending 11/30/2001, \$60,597.00 was expended in completing the Significant Accomplishments section. Furthermore, the Department expects to fully utilize the balance in implementing activities and goals outlined in the Next Steps section, as described in the Executive Summary and Discussion, by the Grant ending date of 09/30/2002.

The grant funds of \$64,094.00 are part of the Public Health Departments Fiscal Year (FY) 2001-02 Adopted Budget and can be found in the Revenue Account 4339 and various Expenditure accounts for Program 6500, Project 5040. In addition, an estimated \$17,200.00 is to be rolled over into the Public Health Departments FY 2002-03 Recommended Budget for the final period of the current grant year.

Special Instructions: None

Concurrence: None