

**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:** 8/19/03  
**Department Name:** Public Health  
**Department No.:** 041  
**Agenda Date:** 9/09/2003  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Roger E. Heroux, MPA, Director  
Public Health Department

**STAFF CONTACT:** Nancy A. Lapolla, MPH, Program Manager  
Emergency Medical Services (681-5274)

**SUBJECT:** Contractual agreement with the State EMS Authority for ReddiNet, a Communication System for the County EMS Agency and local hospitals.

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**Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Execute the attached Standard Agreement with the State Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Authority in the amount of \$28,800 for ReddiNet (Rapid Emergency Digital Data Information Network), a web-based communication system for all five Santa Barbara County hospitals and the County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency for the period of June 1, 2003 to September 30, 2003.
2. Authorize the Public Health Department Director to execute an amendment for this agreement with the Emergency Medical Services Authority for time extensions to the contract.

**Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal 2: A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit.

**Executive Summary and Discussion:**

The State EMS Authority is managing part of the Federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) bioterrorism grants from the federal government focused on hospital and Emergency Medical Services system emergency and disaster preparedness. The purpose of the contract is to purchase communication software and equipment to enhance our local medical communication network in licensed acute care 911 receiving hospitals and increase communications with local EMS systems, public health, operational area, regional and state

governmental agencies. These monies are only available through the State EMS Authority to local EMS Agencies that do not currently have a hospital communication status system in place. Counties without a hospital communications system were offered a one-time grant to purchase one of two systems currently in use in the State: EMSsystems or ReddiNet.

Together, the local EMS Agency and the hospitals have determined that the ReddiNet system is the most appropriate system for Santa Barbara County. Operational area Region 1 consists of Orange, Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties. Three of these counties, Orange, Los Angeles and Ventura already use the ReddiNet system. Therefore, ReddiNet would be the system of choice to increase our ability to share critical regional information. The ReddiNet system is also in use in Riverside, San Bernardino, Alameda, and Contra Costa counties. In addition, ReddiNet is scheduled for installation in Fresno, Kings, and Madera counties. The system has significantly increased the efficiency with which hospitals and EMS Agencies track the status of their EMS system.

ReddiNet is an Internet based data transmission system that employs computer and wireless technology to link key emergency response systems in a county or region. Information shared among participants is updated automatically and around the clock as participants update the data system. The system consists of a stand-alone computer that is permanently connected to the Internet. These units are typically located in the emergency departments, next to the paramedic radio. Information, such as bed availability, status of specialty equipment such as CT scanners, and availability of specialist physicians such as neurosurgeons can be shared between all participating hospitals. This information helps hospitals direct patients from the field to the appropriate hospital. The system is particularly useful during mass casualty incidents and disasters.

Currently, in Santa Barbara County hospital status polling must be done either by telephone or by the County's MedNet radio system, which has proven to be problematic and unreliable in disaster exercises. The ReddiNet system offers a tracking and reporting mechanism at the click of a mouse, and audible alert signals remind hospital staff to update their status. All five hospitals in Santa Barbara County have agreed to implement this system and maintain any ongoing cost after the initial implementation grant funding.

#### **Mandates and Service Levels:**

Health and Safety Code Division 2.5, Sections 1797.151 directs the State EMS Authority to coordinate with the local EMS Agency for medical and hospital disaster preparedness.

This grant-funded project will provide additional resources to enhance and increase services levels by providing a countywide hospital communication system.

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

There will be no impact to the general fund as a result of adoption of this action. Once the contract is executed, funding from the State EMS Authority will be distributed to the Santa Barbara County EMS Agency in order to purchase five stand-alone computers for the hospitals and one stand-alone computer for the EMS Agency at a cost of \$4,800 for each system. The system cost of

\$4,800 is broken down as follows: \$2,500 for installation, \$800 for hardware and \$1,500 for the first year license, for a total of \$28,800.

There will be an annual license renewal fee of \$850 payable by each system user. The five hospitals have agreed to cover their future licensing fees and ongoing costs as well as any additional maintenance or training cost that may occur. The ongoing cost for the EMS Agency of approximately \$850 per year will be covered by savings that will result from the discontinuance of the MedNet radio system that will no longer be required after the ReddiNet system is operational.

If adopted by your Board, a Budget revision request will follow that will amend the Public Health Department's adopted FY 03-04 budget. This will have the result of increasing the Emergency Medical Services cost center, found on page D-188 of the County's FY 03-04 Operating Plan, from \$1,279,131 to 1,307,931.

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

**Special Instructions:**

Please call Eliana Guerra at 681-5274 when (5) **original** copies with original signatures of the State Agreement are ready for processing and send one photocopy to PHD Administration, ATTN: Janice Cioppa.

**Concurrence:**

Auditor-Controller, County Counsel, Risk Management

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties have executed this Agreement to be effective on the date executed by COUNTY.

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_ BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Naomi Schwartz, CHAIR  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:  
Michael F. Brown  
Clerk Of The Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
Robert W. Geis, C.P.A.  
Auditor Controller

BY: \_\_\_\_\_ BY: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
Stephen Shane Stark  
County Counsel

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
Roger E. Heroux, M.P.A.  
Director, Public Health Department

by: \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy County Counsel By: \_\_\_\_\_ DIRECTOR

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
John A. Forner  
Risk Manager

by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Risk Manager