

**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: 5/3/05
Department Name: Public Health
Department No.: 041
Agenda Date: 5/17/05
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Elliot Schulman, MD, Director
Public Health Department

STAFF CONTACT: Carol Millage, PharmD
681-4017

SUBJECT: Bid Waiver for Purchase of Robotic Prescription Dispensing System for Lompoc Public Health Clinic.

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:
Approve a waiver of the competitive bid requirement and authorize the Purchasing Manager to enter into an agreement with ScriptPro USA, Inc. (not a local vendor) for a robotic prescription dispensing system in the amount of \$151,271 that includes computer interface, installation, training, and tax for the Lompoc Public Health Clinic.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal No. 2. A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

Pursuant to County Code Section 2-39, the Public Health Department (PHD) Pharmacy program, is requesting your Board to waive the requirement for a competitive bid for purchase of a pharmacy robotic prescription dispensing system in the approximate cost of \$151,271. Currently there are two robotic systems on site at two of the three PHD pharmacies. The Pharmacy program is requesting the purchase of another ScriptPro robotic system for the Lompoc pharmacy for the following reasons:

- In Santa Maria, the department selected the Parata robotic system, (a competitive system) simply because of the size of that pharmacy. There was no other robotic system that would have physically fit into the small space allotted.
- The ScriptPro 200 is currently being utilized in the Santa Barbara location. The software interface with the ScriptPro has been more consistent and reliable than the Parata and there are no additional fees for the ScriptPro-PDX pharmacy software interface. The ScriptPro interfaces seamlessly with the computer equipment.

- Other robotic systems, such as the Auto Med utilizes the same “chute systems” for many drugs. Your pharmacy staff has concerns about the safety of such a system due to cross-contamination of the medications that could cause allergic reactions or other side effects. Both the Parata and the ScriptPro do not have issues with cross-contamination.
- ScriptPro robotics can work independently from the PDX system for pre-packing medications, which is an important factor when preparing for bioterrorism.
- The ScriptPro can store information, even when it is turned off. This has been a great asset when there is a need to work remotely during off hours.
- The ScriptPro allows for offline processing for rebilling that the Parata does not allow. This forces the billing technician to work before or after Santa Maria business hours.
- Continuity is one of the most important reason for staying with the ScriptPro. The staff that is required to move around site to site for vacation/sick coverage, does not have to learn an entirely new system, or remember training from several months prior to working at the location.

Mandates and Service Levels:

The provision of pharmaceuticals is consistent with the County’s responsibility of providing medical care to the indigent persons of our County (Welfare & Institutions Code §17000). Utilizing a robotic system in preparing prescribed medications assists staff, particularly the pharmacists, with providing direct patient services such as medication counseling.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The cost of purchasing the ScriptPro robotic prescription-dispensing system is \$151,271, this includes costs for a computer interface, shipment, installation, training, software and hardware support for 6 months, and tax. The ongoing monthly cost of full service customer support and replacement of all parts is included in the initial six months of ownership. After this period there is a \$480 per month maintenance fee. There will also be approximately \$5,000 dollars per year for labels and supplies for robotics. These costs have been budgeted as part of the Public Health Department’s Adopted Fiscal Year 04-05 budget and can be found in the County’s Operating Plan document on page D-184 in the Pharmacy cost center.

Based upon financial projections, it is believed that the equipment will pay for itself within one year through reduced staff time and increased pharmacy revenue volume.

Since the Lompoc pharmacy was designed to allow for the placement of a pharmacy robot, no facility impacts are anticipated.

Special Instructions: Please send one copy of the Minute Order to the Purchasing Manager and one copy of the Minute Order to PHD Contracts Unit, 300 N. San Antonio Road, Bldg. 8; Santa Barbara, CA 93110
ATTN: Dawn McGrew (805) 681-5205.

Concurrence: Purchasing