

**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: 4/2/01
Department Name: Public Health Department
Department No.: 041
Agenda Date: 5/1/01
Placement: Departmental
Estimate Time: 30 minutes
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Naomi Schwartz, First District Supervisor
Roger E. Heroux, Director, Public Health Department
John M. Scherrei, Fire Chief, Santa Barbara County Fire Department

WLS *RCH* *MM*

STAFF CONTACT: Nancy A. Lapolla, Director Emergency Medical Services 681-5274
Bruce Carter, Manager, Office of Emergency Services 681-5559
Salud Carbajal, Executive Assisitant, First District

SUBJECT: Emergency and Disaster Planning for Vunerable Populations

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Accept a progress report on Emergency and Disaster Planning for Vulnerable Populations.

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:

In 1995 Supervisor Naomi Schwartz brought to the County's attention the need to enhance our Emergency Disaster Plan for Vulnerable Populations. (Attachment A) The following is a progress report on these activities. 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 comprehensive system of response 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, and
- People with disabling chronic or acute mental illness.

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency, through a \$127,000 two-year grant from Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA), has convened a countywide task force of public, private and community based organizations to develop a written plan. (Attachment B) 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, Santa Maria's 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.

Significant Accomplishments

To date, the task force has:

- Surveyed community based organizations and identified that ten percent (10%) or 40,000 individuals within the County that meet the definition of vulnerable or medically fragile,
- Identified the vulnerable populations living independently in the community and in residential facilities through Geographical Information System (GIS) maps,
- Co-sponsored a conference on Disaster Readiness through Santa Barbara City College Continuing Education Division on March 8, 2001, to educate caregivers and long-term care facility staff and others on sheltering, evacuation, and emotional trauma associated with disasters,
- Reviewed a local board and care home's disaster plan, developed a pilot program for training facility staff and provided education to the staff, and
- Participated in the State Disaster Medical Group task force to implement 27 recommendations for county and state agencies' response to the vulnerable populations needs during an emergency or a disaster.

The County and the City of Santa Barbara were joint recipients of a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant entitled "Project Impact". Project Impact was a FEMA initiative to create "*Disaster Resistant Communities*" and as part of this grant the County in conjunction with the City of Santa Barbara were able to:

- Add layers to the County Assessor's Geographical Information System (GIS). Some of the layers that were included were from Flood Control and both the County and City of Santa Barbara Fire Departments. Also included in the GIS mapping were hospitals and skilled nursing facilities, which were provided and continue to be provided by the Long Term Care Ombudsman. The County has also been able to partner with a UCSB Grad Student using GIS in creating display maps to show licensed care facilities in the County, and
- Create 12 Public Service Announcements (PSA) s in English, Spanish and Closed-Captioned, which were aired throughout the County in the year 2000.

Next Steps

The EMS Agency Vulnerable Populations Task Force will complete the written plan for vulnerable populations by October 2001. Significant activities over the next six months will be:

- Prepare Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with local transportation agencies to provide transportation of the vulnerable populations to appropriate facilities in the event of a need to evacuate following a large scale disaster,
- Revise the Public Health Department's disaster plan to ensure that medical assistance is available to emergency shelter sites for vulnerable populations,

- Identify individuals living at home who will require assistance during a disaster,
- Plan outreach to skilled nursing facilities, board and care homes, and other residential care facilities to review and provide assistance with updating their disaster plans and to educate their staff.
- Plan a disaster drill in cooperation with the Disaster Preparedness Advisory Committee (DPAC) that will include response readiness for vulnerable populations, and
- Continue Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) targeting manufactured homes throughout the County, including cities of Lompoc, Santa Barbara and Santa Maria.

Additional Steps

Although the plan will be developed by the end of the grant, there is a need to provide ongoing implementation and maintenance efforts, such as:

- Training of all first responders regarding the vulnerable populations disaster response plan,
- Regular practice and drilling of disaster response efforts that include the vulnerable populations,
- Education of residential facilities and community based organizations regarding the vulnerable populations disaster response plan, and
- Identification of a mechanism to collect data regarding community based vulnerable populations and to update changes in addresses or medical status.

Key to the success of the vulnerable populations disaster plan will be the ongoing maintenance of quickly available information about the location of people who need assistance in the event of a disaster and ongoing training throughout the county. Currently, no funding has been identified for the implementation of the plan.

Mandates and Service Levels:

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

If the database and educational aspects of the plan were implemented, these would be new services.

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 collaboration and development of the Emergency and Disaster Planning for Vulnerable Population has been secured through a two year grant from the State Agency of Emergency Medical Services in the amount of \$127,000. In the first year of the grant, ending 10/31/2000, \$63,000 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 09/30/2001.

The grant funds of \$75,400 for the current fiscal year are part of the Public Health Departments FY 2000-01 Adopted Budget and can be found in the Revenue Account 4339 and various Expenditure accounts for Program 6500. In addition, \$19,930 is included in the departments FY 2001-02 recommended budget for the final three month period of the current grant year.

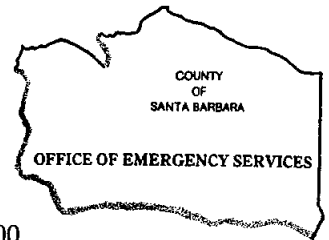
As stated in the Executive Summary and Discussion no funding has been identified for the implementation of the Additional Steps section.

Special Instructions: None

Concurrence: None



Fire Department SANTA BARBARA COUNTY



HEADQUARTERS

4410 Cathedral Oaks Road • Santa Barbara, California • 93110-1042 • (805) 681-5500

JIM THOMAS

Fire Chief

KEITH SIMMONS

Deputy Fire Chief

MEMORANDUM

TO: Supervisor Naomi Schwartz

FROM: Andy Rosenberger
Director, Office of Emergency Services *AR*

DATE: October 24, 1995

SUBJECT: Special populations meeting

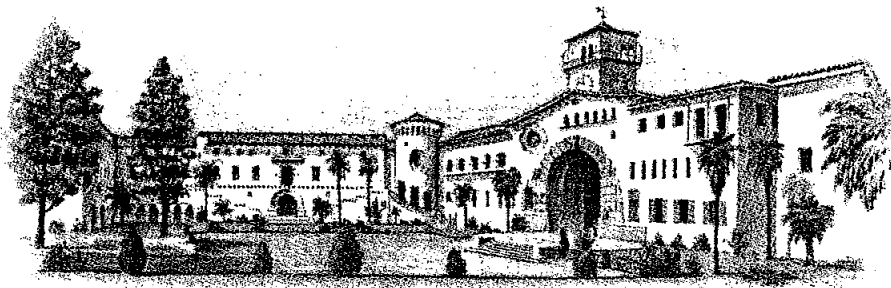
I have enclosed some information about where we are headed with this project. I assume that we will have a small brainstorming meeting with the most important players which will probably be followed by a workshop or larger information sharing session.

I will keep you informed of times/dates.

NAOMI SCHWARTZ
Supervisor First District

SALUD CARBAJAL
Executive Staff Assistant

MARY ELLEN WYLIE
Administrative Assistant



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101
Telephone (805) 568-2186
FAX (805) 568-2534
E-mail:
nschwar@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

March 8, 1999

Carol MacRae
Special Projects/Program Analyst
EMS Authority
1930 9th Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95814-7043

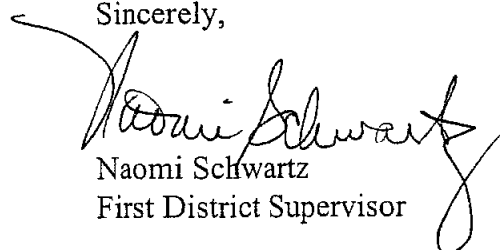
Dear Ms. MacRae:

I am writing this letter to urge your support of the Santa Barbara County Emergency Medical Services Agency's project to provide specific planning and development of Emergency and Medical Services for Challenged Populations. These are people with disabilities including seniors, other adults and children with disabling acute or chronic physical or mental conditions.

I believe we have an urgent need to develop specific information that is available to Disaster and Emergency personnel on a county-wide basis during an emergency or disaster. I fully support the collaboration of local agencies and the Santa Barbara County EMS Agency to implement a county-wide approach to planning for the specific needs of these Challenged Populations.

I am confident that Santa Barbara County staff are committed to working closely with the EMS Agency to proactively create this plan, and I hope you will give positive consideration to the grant application.

Sincerely,



Naomi Schwartz
First District Supervisor