



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

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

Department Name: Public Health
Department No.: 041
For Agenda Of: February 2, 2021
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD, Director
Director(s) Public Health Department
Contact Info: Laura Lui, EMR Manager, (805) 450-6747
SUBJECT: OCHINLINK Access Agreement with CenCal Health

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors consider recommendations as follows:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an OCHINLINK Access Agreement with CenCal Health for the period of February 2, 2021 through March 31, 2022.
- b) Approve and authorize the Public Health Director, or designee, to extend the period of performance in accordance with Section 17 of the Agreement, to terminate the Agreement, and to make immaterial changes that do not alter the obligations of the County.
- c) Determine that the activity is not a "Project" subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review per CEQA Guideline Section 15378(b)(5), since the activity is an organizational or administrative activity of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the Agenda to execute an OCHINLINK Access Agreement with CenCal Health to initiate CenCal Health's use of OCHINLINK (Attachment A). CenCal Health required changes to the previously Board approved OCHINLINK Access Agreement under the contract between OCHIN and the Public Health Department (PHD).

Background:

The Agreement with OCHIN was approved by the Board of Supervisors on March 21, 2017, and implementation of the electronic medical record (EMR) system was completed in March 2018.

OCHINLINK is a module within the PHD EMR that allows Outside Entities to collaborate with PHD by remotely accessing patient care and treatment information contained in PHD’s EMR. Outside Entities are health care practices, organizations, and agencies that provide or support PHD patient care and treatment.

Similar collaborations currently exist throughout the nation, California, and locally and having real time access to medical treatment information is critical to high quality patient care and to prevent avoidable deleterious outcomes such as allergic reactions, improper diagnosis and improper treatment. As an example, PHD, through a similar portal and defined relationship, accesses medical treatment information on its patients that have been hospitalized at Cottage Hospital, Dignity Health Marian Medical Center, and Lompoc Valley Medical Center.

OCHINLINK is a critical care tool used to assure correct medical information is received and appropriate treatment plans are created. CenCal Health completes multiple quality reviews of PHD patients on an annual basis. OCHINLINK will allow outside organizations the flexibility to review patient charts that require audits. This access will save project resources and provider faster more efficient audits for CenCal Health.

Performance Measure:

N/A

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: N/A

Fiscal Analysis:

There are no fiscal or facilities impacts associated with this action as it is purely administrative in nature.

Key Contract Risks:

The nature of the OCHINLINK contract is access. Access is always associated with risk of inappropriate usage, however the County has business associates agreements with both CenCal Health and OCHIN. The OCHINLINK Organizational Agreement outlines appropriate access usage to help mitigate the access risks. Additionally, the County can terminate CenCal’s access at any time for any reason.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:
0

FTEs:
0

Special Instructions:

Please execute three (3) original OCHINLINK Access Agreements with CenCal Health and OCHIN and retain two (2) original Agreements and one (1) Minute Order for pick-up by the department. Please email phdcu@sbcphd.org when available for pickup.

OCHINLINK Access Agreement with CenCal Health

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Attachments:

A. OCHINLINK Access Agreement with CenCal Health

Authored by:

Laura Lui, EMR Manager