



Agenda Date: 10/23/2007
Agenda Placement: 6C

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Shelli Brobst for Randolph F. Snowden - Director
Health & Human Services
REPORT BY: Shelli Brobst, Contracts Analyst, 253-4720
SUBJECT: Memorandum of Understanding with Harvest Pediatrics, Inc. regarding the Bay Area Regional Immunization Registry (BARR)

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Health and Human Services requests approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Harvest Pediatrics, Inc., for the term October 23, 2007 through October 22, 2010, to enable Harvest Pediatrics, Inc. to become a member of the Bay Area Regional Immunization Registry (BARR) Program.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Napa County Health and Human Services Agency's Public Health Division is the lead agency in the County for enrolling local providers in the Bay Area Regional Immunization Registry (BARR). Board approval of today's Memorandum of Understanding will enable Harvest Pediatrics, Inc. to become a member of the BARR. BARR's purpose is to reduce the number of duplicate immunizations administered by having a single statewide immunization electronic database accessible by its member medical offices and clinics.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The California Department of Health Services provided funding to Napa County to implement an electronic immunization records program in relation to the Bay Area Regional Immunization Registry (BARR). BARR is an integral component of the Statewide Immunization Information System, California's immunization registry network. Plans are under way to integrate California's regional immunization registries so that information can be exchanged throughout the State, with the intent of reducing the number of duplicate immunizations.

Napa County Health and Human Services Agency's Public Health Division is the lead agency in the County to enroll local providers in the BARR electronic database. This database includes immunization, tuberculin skin test and patient information. Additionally, the Division will provide physicians' offices initial training in the use of the system and ongoing support and information with updates from the State. Immunization records for patients whose physicians use the Registry will be available to other health care providers and schools, markedly decreasing the likelihood that lost records will lead to the need for repeat immunizations. The Registry also will provide improved county-wide immunization coverage data for use in assessing service gaps.

Approval of today's requested MOU will enable Harvest Pediatrics, Inc. to participate as a member of BARR. The advantages of joining BARR for this provider are:

1. The BARR database provides faster access to information and requires less office space than utilizing paper records in the office/clinic;
2. BARR is faster than regular mail for obtaining records from other medical offices/clinics;
3. BARR provides an easier way to track the stock of immunization drugs and recognize the need to re-order stock; and
4. BARR makes it easier to track the stock lot number in the event of an immunization reaction.

HIPAA regulations explicitly exempt immunization-related public health activities. Therefore, a HIPAA Business Associate Agreement is not required.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Lorenzo Zialcita