



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 12/15/2015  
Agenda Placement: 9G  
Set Time: 10:20 AM  
Estimated Report Time: 10 Minutes

## NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Shelli Brobst for HOWARD HIMES - Director  
Health & Human Services Administration  
**REPORT BY:** Shelli Brobst, Contracts Manager - 253-4720  
**SUBJECT:** Presentation on HeartSafe Community/Logo

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

Director of Health and Human Services requests authorization for Local EMS Agency staff to implement the Napa County HeartSafe Community Program, use the Napa County HeartSafe logo, and designate communities meeting established criteria as a "HeartSafe Community."

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Each year, more than 420,000 emergency medical services (EMS) assessed out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur in the United States (American Heart Association, 2013). More people die each year from sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) than from cancer, auto accidents, AIDS, and firearms combined (Sudden Cardiac Arrest Foundation). The "HeartSafe Communities" program will help strengthen a participating community's response to sudden cardiac arrest with the goal of reducing deaths. Communities may be designated as being a "HeartSafe Community" when they have reached certain community outreach, education and response goals established by the program.

### **PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS**

1. Staff reports.
2. Public comments.
3. Motion, second, discussion and vote on the item.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Is there a Fiscal Impact?                      No

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

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**

HeartSafe Community programs are used throughout California and the country in an effort to increase survival from sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). Queen of the Valley's HeartSafe program has been operating in Napa County for several years, providing community outreach and education on (SCA). The "Napa County HeartSafe Communities" program will allow the Local EMS Agency to designate communities as being "HeartSafe" once they have met identified benchmarks.

Do the citizens of our community know what to do if they witness someone collapse or find someone with no signs of life? Many more lives could be saved if bystanders would quickly phone 9-1-1, begin CPR, and apply and use an available Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Most often, SCA is caused by an electrical malfunction that triggers an abnormal heart rhythm called ventricular fibrillation. When the heart goes into this rhythm it is ineffective as a pump. CPR acts to pump blood to the brain, heart, and other vital organs. Defibrillation, the delivery of an electric shock to the heart, stops the heart and allows a normal heart rhythm to resume. This is the only effective therapy for ventricular fibrillation.

So who survives? Typically, those who meet certain criteria:

1. Someone witnessed the event, recognized the emergency, decided to help, confirmed unresponsiveness and called 9-1-1.
2. Someone started CPR immediately.
3. Someone arrived quickly with a defibrillator and activated it on the victim.
4. Professional emergency medical services (EMS) personnel provided advanced cardiac life support.

A "HeartSafe Community" is a community where all elements of the Chain of Survival are in place. Our aim is to increase the placement of AEDs in the community and increase community awareness and preparedness for sudden cardiac arrest scenarios.

The goals of the program are:

1. general awareness of SCA among the citizens of your community
2. citizen use of 9-1-1 when SCA strikes
3. citizen use of CPR (assisted by Emergency Medical Dispatch)
4. the proficient use of AEDs that are placed in the community
5. registration of AEDs in the community with the Local EMS Agency
6. available CPR and AED training in the community

In doing so, it is our expectation to increase the survival rate from SCA in communities throughout Napa County. A community is designated as a HeartSafe Community by gaining "heartbeats." A community's population determines the number of heartbeats necessary to gain designation.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Leanne Link