



Agenda Date: 2/8/2005
Agenda Placement: 6L

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Barbara Scriven for Dennis Morris - Director
Human Resources
REPORT BY: Barbara Scriven, Human Resources Analyst III, 253-4000
SUBJECT: Amend the Departmental Allocation List and Table & Index

RECOMMENDATION

Human Resources Director requests adoption of a resolution regarding the following in connection with the Public Health division of the Health and Human Services Agency, effective February 8, 2005:

1. Amend the Table and Index to add Communicable Disease Investigator, Epidemiologist, and Health Education Specialist;
2. Amend the Departmental Allocation List to add one (1) .5 Communicable Disease Investigator - Limited Term (LT), one (1) Epidemiologist - Limited Term (LT), and one (1) Health Education Specialist - Limited Term (LT) through June 31, 2005; and
3. Amend appropriate policies to add Communicable Disease Investigator, Epidemiologist, and Health Education Specialist.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Napa County receives federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) funding through the State of California for bioterrorism (BT) preparedness. Key focus areas for improving the County's ability to respond to potential bioterrorism threats include improving the response to communicable diseases (CD), conducting community education, and increasing the capacity of the Public Health Division, local hospitals and clinics to respond in a bioterrorism emergency. The Public Health Division recommends the use of bioterrorism grant funds, Vital Records Improvement trust funds, and Child Health and Disability Program funds to create the three limited term positions listed below for the purpose of increasing the County's ability to address a bioterrorism/emerging infectious disease event:

- | One (1) .5 Communicable Disease Investigator - Limited Term; and
- | One (1) Epidemiologist - Limited Term; and
- | One (1) Health Education Specialist - Limited Term.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	No
What is the revenue source?	<p>The Epidemiologist position is funded 50% with bioterrorism funds and 50% by the Vital Records Improvement Trust Fund (VRIP). Bioterrorism funding is federal Centers for Disease Control funds passed through the state Department of Health Services to counties to enable local health jurisdictions to prepare for bioterrorism incidents. The funds are awarded on an annual basis and must be returned to the state if they are not used in the specified time period. The Vital Records Improvement Trust Fund consists of fees collected on each birth and death certificate issued by the county. The funds are used for trend research designed to improve the quality of life for county residents regarding births, death and communicable diseases.</p> <p>The Health Education Specialist position is funded 50% by Child Health and Disability Program (CHDP) funds and 50% by bioterrorism funds. CHDP funds are used to educate providers about state-funded periodic health exams for children as well as to provide a "gateway" (entrance point) to insurance programs.</p> <p>The Communicable Disease Investigator is a half-time position funded entirely with bioterrorism funds.</p> <p>If the requested positions are approved, a budget transfer with appropriations and revenues related to these positions will be included in a bioterrorism budget transfer in the coming weeks.</p>
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary
Discretionary Justification:	These three positions will enhance the County's ability to respond to a bioterrorism event as well as address deficiencies in the Communicable Disease unit.
Is the general fund affected?	No
Future fiscal impact:	These positions are limited term and will only be renewed if the funding from all sources remains available.
Consequences if not approved:	The County will not be able to add these positions and will risk having to return unused funds to the state.
Additional Information:	None

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

There is no Environmental Impact for this item.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Napa County receives federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) funding through the State of California for bioterrorism (BT) preparedness. Priorities for funding during the first two grant cycles included establishing the grant management structure (contacting with a grant administrator and providing clerical support), developing an HHS Department Operations Center, and improving communications systems. Last year a half-time public health nurse was added to develop the Public Health Outbreak Response Plan.

As the directive to improve the "all-hazards" response capability has evolved, Napa County HHS's approach to bioterrorism preparedness has likewise evolved into an approach that will fulfill bioterrorism critical capacities in ways that strengthen the agency's infrastructure for core public health responsibilities. Not only will this approach improve overall public health capacity, it also will assist Napa County in upcoming national public health accreditation efforts.

Key focus areas for Napa County include improving the response to communicable diseases (CD), conducting community education, and increasing the capacity of the Public Health Division, local hospitals and clinics to respond in a bioterrorism emergency. To address priorities and deficiencies in the CD infrastructure, the Public Health Division will use funds bioterrorism preparedness funds in ways that will also substantially improve the capacity to perform core public health functions.

The Bioterrorism Steering Committee is requesting three positions to increase the county's ability to address a bioterrorism/emerging infectious disease event:

- | The Health Education Specialist will cross-train public health staff to perform specific roles in response to infectious disease outbreaks or other public health emergencies, as well as to plan and conduct outreach and training for emergency response agencies, public safety agencies, hospitals, and community health care providers. This position will be funded 50% by bioterrorism funds and 50% by Child Health and Disability Program (CHDP) funds. CHDP activities will include educating local physicians and the public on programs offered and channeling eligible children into health coverage programs.
- | The Communicable Disease Investigator will conduct screening interviews and re-interviews on persons infected with a communicable disease; manage field investigations to locate and refer identified contacts or cases for appropriate services; monitor patient treatments within the scope of non-licensed practice; and provide health education to the general public. This position is half-time and fully funded by bioterrorism funds.
- | The Epidemiologist will develop an electronic data system to track communicable diseases and other reportable condition reports received by Public Health and monitor their resolution. The Epidemiologist also will analyze trends in disease and general health status in Napa County, and evaluate and propose interventions to improve the collection and analysis of health-related birth and death certificate information and other community health data collection and analysis. In case of a disease outbreak, this position provides support critical to the control of the outbreak. The position is funded 50% by bioterrorism funds and 50% by Vital Statistics Improvement Trust Funds (VRIP). VRIP funds are used to prepare statistical information designed to improve the quality of life for all Napa County residents.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

A . Resolution

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Andrew Carey