



Agenda Date: 3/27/2007  
Agenda Placement: 6D

## NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Shelli Brobst for Randolph F. Snowden - Director  
Health & Human Services  
**REPORT BY:** Shelli Brobst, Contracts Analyst, 253-4720  
**SUBJECT:** Actions regarding the California Statewide Automated Welfare System

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

Director of Health and Human Services requests approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign the following agreements relating to the California Statewide Automated Welfare System:

1. First Amended California Statewide Automated Welfare System Consortium IV Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement for the Design, Development, Implementation and Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of an Automated Welfare System between the Counties of Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Plumas, Riverside, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne and Yuba; and
2. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the California Statewide Automated Welfare System Consortium IV and the County of Napa, to delineate the areas of understanding and agreement between the Consortium and the County with regard to implementation of the C-IV automated welfare system.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Approval of the requested actions will enable Napa County to join in a consortium formed to transition from the current statewide system for determining eligibility for public assistance programs (ISAWS) to an improved successor system (C-IV System). Approval of the MOU will enable the County to join the C-IV System Consortium, which has been working on designing and developing the C-IV System since 1998. The MOU sets forth the areas of understanding and agreement between the Consortium and the County. The First Amended Joint Powers Agreement delineates the procedures by which the members of the C-IV Consortium will participate in the migration from the current ISAWS software system to the C-IV System.

### **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**

To determine eligibility for public assistance programs, the Napa County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) currently utilizes the Interim Statewide Automated Welfare System (ISAWS) system. This statewide system, utilized by 35 counties, provides uniformity and consistency in the application of public assistance programs and policies. ISAWS contains more than 6,000 rules used in determining eligibility for public assistance programs such as Food Stamps, Medi-Cal, CalWORKs (California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids), and CMSP (County Medical Services Program). ISAWS, however, is a traditional mainframe-based system.

In 1998, Merced, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Stanislaus Counties got together to design, develop and implement a new system which would manage the complexity of both public assistance and employment programs in a web-based and user friendly system. The C-IV System was thus developed, and was implemented in all four counties in December 2004. The C-IV System supports the CalWORKs, Food Stamps, and Medi-Cal programs, and fully integrates these programs with Employment Services and Child Care programs.

In the meantime, the 35 counties still using the Interim Statewide Automated Welfare System (ISAWS) were in agreement that ISAWS was no longer meeting their needs. The 35 ISAWS counties thus evaluated the two other viable systems -- the C-IV and the CalWORKs Information Network (CalWIN) Systems. In October and November 2004, system reviews of both, the C-IV and the CalWIN systems were conducted by the ISAWS counties and state stakeholders to evaluate how well each system would support the ISAWS counties' business practices. In addition to the functional review conducted by the ISAWS counties and state staff, a separate technical review and analysis was conducted by a consultant, the Eclipse Solutions. The technical review focused on the similarities and differences between the C-IV and CalWIN Systems with respect to long-term viability and the ability of each to meet the ISAWS counties' needs. The results of this technical review and analysis were shared with the ISAWS counties and the State in November 2004.

By December 3, 2004, each of the 35 ISAWS counties identified the C-IV System as their preference for migration. Each of the ISAWS counties believes the C-IV System will provide their county with a forward-looking automated welfare and employment services system that has been developed and implemented to address the business needs of California Counties. Staff therefore recommends Board approval of the requested actions.

ISAWS Maintenance and Operations costs are included in HHSA's currently fiscal year budget. Staff currently has no reason to believe that the Maintenance and Operations costs of the C-IV System will not be comparable, and thus covered within the budgeted appropriation. Staff is thus concluding there will be no Fiscal Impact in approving the requested actions.

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Lorenzo Zialcita