RECOMMENDATION

Director of Health and Human Services requests adoption of a Resolution delegating signature authority to the Health and Human Services Director, Napa County Public Health Officer and the Emergency Medical Services Administrator to request data from the Centers For Medicare & Medicaid Services to carry out Public Health activities during Public Health emergencies.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United States Department of Health & Human Services Assistant Secretary for Preparedness & Response and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) have established the emPOWER Initiative to help local public health officials identify within their own communities, vulnerable populations who are electricity-dependent and are therefore most at risk during significant power disruption events, and the authority to request real-time data about individual patients through a secure mechanism. This data will then be used to conduct outreach during and after an emergency or disaster. Data from CMS may only be requested by local officials once there is a determined urgent need and disclosure of such data requires a written request and a signed data use agreement (DUA), a copy of which is attached.

Staff is requesting adoption of a resolution to delegate signature authority to the Director of the Health and Human Services Agency, the Napa County Public Health Officer and the EMS Administrator to request CMS data and sign required agreements and other documentation in the event of a public health emergency.

FISCAL IMPACT
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

Responsibility for medical and health disaster preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery is the joint responsibility of the county health officer and local EMS agency administrator. Section 1797.153 of the California Health & Safety Code allows for the establishment of a Medical Health Operational Area Coordination (MHOAC) program at the operational area (County) level. The Napa County MHOAC program works closely with the County Office of Emergency Services (OES) to coordinate the preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery for medical and health related events. The MHOAC program requires each county to address 17 specific medical and health functions, including the "assessment of immediate medical needs." This includes assessing the needs of individuals with access and functional needs.

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) Assistant Secretary for Preparedness & Response (ASPR) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) have established the emPOWER Initiative to help local public health officials identify vulnerable populations within their own communities during a disaster. The initiative provides data on electricity-dependent people within the community that are most at risk during significant power disruption events. More specifically, the tool allows local public health officials to request real-time information about individual patients through a secure mechanism, which can be used to conduct outreach during and after an emergency or disaster.

The emPOWER data set changes frequently as beneficiary needs change and can only be requested by local officials once there is a determined need. HHS & CMS do not allow for agreements to be in place ahead of an event, but instead require a written request and signed data use agreement (DUA) at the time of need. If requested, this data would be urgently needed and it would not be tenable to use the County's standard process for signing a DUA.

Napa County Health & Human Services is requesting adoption of a resolution to delegate signature authority to the Health and Human Services Agency Director, Napa County Health Officer, and Napa County EMS Administrator to allow for a timely request of this data during an emergency for the attached Data Use Agreement and empower Specific Data Use Agreement Amendment.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

A . Resolution
B . Data Use Agreement
C . emPOWER Data Use Agreement Amendment

CEO Recommendation: Approve