



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Health Services Agency: Administration Division

(831) 454-4000

Subject: Report on COVID-19 Response Contracts and Amendments

Meeting Date: October 20, 2020

Recommended Action:

Accept and file report on amendments and new agreements approved by the County Purchasing Agent.

Executive Summary

The Health Services Agency (HSA) is requesting the Board accept and file this report on contract amendments and new agreements approved by the County's Purchasing Agent, as authorized by the Board on April 28, 2020 in response to the emergency declaration resulting from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Background

On April 28, 2020, the Board adopted a resolution to temporarily delegate its authority to the County Purchasing Agent to approve scope of work amendments for existing contracts and to increase the Purchasing Agent's authority to approve new contracts for services up to \$1,000,000. This temporary change in authority was granted in response to declarations made in March of 2020 by the County's Health Officer and Board of Supervisors of a local health emergency based on an imminent threat to public health from COVID-19. The authority granted to the Purchasing Agent allows County departments to respond to the COVID-19 emergency by expeditiously implementing contract changes or new agreements in response to the emergency.

Since early March 2020, County personnel led by HSA and the County Administrative Office have spearheaded a strategic response to battling community spread of the COVID-19 virus. HSA has continued to prioritize resources to lead the COVID-19 pandemic response and is striving to meet community needs, including public health, medical and behavioral health needs, as the Santa Cruz County community responds to and recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

HSA contracts with numerous nonprofit organizations and health services providers, many of them assisting persons in Santa Cruz County experiencing the health and economic impacts of COVID-19. In some cases, contracted activities with HSA's Behavioral Health Division could not be performed as originally agreed upon due to COVID-19 and Shelter-In-Place (SIP) restrictions. This necessitated adjustments to the units of service for billable services, coincidentally adjusting rates during the final quarter of Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20, in order to address performance issues caused by the adverse effect of SIP and other COVID-19 related orders on the ability to provide contracted services. The amendments also include reporting provisions related to the

potential receipt of COVID-19 related relief funds. Amendments approved by the Purchasing Agent for such services enabled organizations to modify their services to comply with SIP while not impacting funding for the remainder of the FY 2019-20 contract services.

The Purchasing Agent also approved a new Medical Director Services Agreement with Palo Alto Foundation Medical Group, Inc., a California professional medical corporation, for an Alternate Care Site (ACS) Medical Services Director, Donaldo Hernandez, M.D. In order to plan for local hospital capacity and prepare the health system for an anticipated surge of patients due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the County determined a need to prepare additional sites to treat non-critical hospital patients who are not infected with the COVID-19 virus (the "Alternate Care Sites"). The Medical Director Services Agreement was entered into as a result of the need for an experienced, qualified physician to serve as the ACS Medical Director for the COVID-19 planning, preparedness and response activities related to surge capacity and ACS.

As a result of the Board-approved authority permitting the Purchasing Agent to approve new contracts for services up to \$1,000,000 and make limited amendments to contracts, HSA amended six (6) existing agreements and established one (1) new agreement, as specified on the attached "Attachment A - New and Amended Agreements List".

Analysis

In response to the Board's April 28th requirement that staff report on agreements amended or established under the Purchasing Agent's authority, HSA is providing the Board with the attached list of agreements. The amended and new agreements represent various activities as part of the County's response to the COVID-19 emergency, and would not have been executed as expeditiously without the authority granted on by the Board to the Purchasing Agent for approving amended and new agreements during the COVID-19 emergency.

The six amendments represent contracts held with local nonprofit agencies providing behavioral health services to eligible recipients in Santa Cruz County. None of the amendments represent a change to the total budgeted amount in each agreement. The one new agreement includes an agreement for an ACS Medical Services Director to work in collaboration and continuous partnership with the Alternative Care Sites, the hospitals, specialty providers and staff, and community resources in a team approach at a rate of \$200 per hour for an annual maximum of 1,040 hours.

Financial Impact

Approval of the amendments and new agreements as noted in Attachment A – New and Amended Agreements List does not result in an additional General Fund contribution. The new agreement, #21H0182, is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and budgeted for FY 2020-21 under account 362115/62381/H26800.

Strategic Plan Elements

- 1.A. Comprehensive Health & Safety: Health Equity
- 1.B. Comprehensive Health & Safety: Community Support
- 1.D. Comprehensive Health & Safety: Behavioral Health

Submitted by:

Mimi Hall, Director of Health Services Agency

Recommended by:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrative Officer

Attachments:

- a New and Amended Agreements List - Attachment A