



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Health Services Agency

Subject: Central California Alliance for Health Medi-Cal Capacity
Healthcare Technology Funding

Meeting Date: January 28, 2025

Formal Title: Approve agreement with Central California Alliance for Health in the amount of \$50,000 from the Medi-Cal Capacity Healthcare Technology Program grant funding to replace the outdated electronic health record system used by the Medical Therapy Unit, and take related actions

Recommended Actions

1. Ratify a grant application to the Central California Alliance for the Medi-Cal Capacity Health Healthcare Technology Program grant funding;
2. Approve a new revenue agreement with the Central California Alliance for Health, Contract No. 25R0478, in the amount of \$50,000 for the Healthcare Technology Program grant funding, and authorize the Health Services Agency Director or designee to sign the grant agreement and/or any related documents and amendments; and
3. Adopt a resolution to accept and appropriate unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$50,000 from Central California Alliance for Health for Fiscal Year 2024-25.

Executive Summary

The Health Services Agency (HSA) Public Health Division's (Public Health) Children and Family Health Branch (CFH) operates the County's California Children's Services (CCS) Medical Therapy Unit (MTU). HSA Public Health applied for and was awarded funding from the Central California Alliance for Health (CAAH) for the Medi-Cal Capacity Healthcare Technology Program grant to support CCS MTU. The grant in the amount of \$50,000 is for a term of 12 months. HSA requests Board authorization to ratify submission of a grant application to CCAH, approve a revenue agreement, and accept and appropriate unanticipated revenue Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25. The new grant will allow Public Health to replace the outdated electronic health record (EHR) system for the MTU with EPIC, including the system build, training, and technical assistance needed for implementation.

Discussion

HSA Public Health is a recipient of a CCAH Healthcare Technology Program grant for replacing the outdated electronic health record system used by the MTU. At the end of June 2024, HSA Public Health was made aware of the Healthcare Technology grant through the CCAH with the goal of improving coordination across the healthcare system and address infrastructure and capacity gaps to ensure Medi-Cal members are able to access high quality care when, where, and how they need it. Public Health applied for the competitive Healthcare Technology grant and Board approval was not feasible due to the quick turnaround to meet the grant submission deadline of July 16, 2024. On

October 23, 2024, HSA received notification that Santa Cruz County was awarded a grant in the amount of \$50,000, to be spent within 12 months from the grant award date.

The CCS program serves California's most vulnerable children and provides diagnosis and treatment services, medical case management, and physical and occupational therapy services to children under age twenty-one. Children must have CCS-eligible conditions, such as cystic fibrosis, hemophilia, cerebral palsy, heart disease, cancer, and traumatic injuries.

California local health jurisdictions administer the CCS program on behalf of the State as a core public health service. HSA Public Health is the local health jurisdiction providing this essential service in Santa Cruz County. CCS staff are responsible for eligibility determinations, service authorizations, care coordination, and medical therapy for CCS eligible children. There are approximately 1,000 children residing within Santa Cruz County receiving CCS services through HSA Public Health and a network of uniquely qualified CCS paneled specialists, hospitals, and specialty care centers. The MTU provides physical and occupational therapy for almost 150 clients at two school-based outpatient rehabilitation clinics in Live Oak and Watsonville.

The current EHR and case management system, MTU Online, is no longer supported with updates and technical assistance. Therefore, there is a need to transition to a more current EHR system. HSA Health Centers Division (Health Centers) utilizes EPIC for their patients. After consultation between Public Health and Health Centers, EPIC was chosen as the best solution so the MTU can leverage the existing EPIC system and experience of Health Centers in administering and supporting the EHR.

Financial Impact

The revenue agreement with CCAH, Contract No. 25R0478, in the amount of \$50,000 has a term of 12-month term that spans two fiscal years. The resolution accepts unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$50,000 into HSA Public Health's Children and Family Health FY 2024-25 Approved Budget under account GL 362503/42384/H20203 and appropriates as detailed, including into extra help staffing costs, Professional & Special Services, Education and Training, and Software License Services. Any unspent remaining funds will be budgeted appropriately in FY 2025-26. No new County General funds are needed or requested.

Strategic Initiatives

Operational Plan - Comprehensive Health & Safety, Operational Excellence

Submitted By:

Monica Morales

Recommended By:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrative Officer

Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this agenda item.