SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS INDEX SHEET

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Index: --Letter of the Health Services Agency Director of November 17, 2003

Item: 42. AUTHORIZED the Health Services Agency to submit a letter of intent to the State Department of Health Services for the National Hospital Bioterrorism Preparedness funds in the amount of $281,339, as recommended by the Health Services Agency Director

County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

P.O. BOX 962,1080 EMELINE AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061

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HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY
ADMINISTRATION

APPROVED AND FILED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DATE: 12/9/03
COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ
SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE BOARD
BY Sharon Mitchell DEPUTY

November 17, 2003

AGENDA: December 9, 2003

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: Approval to Submit Letter of Intent for HRSA Cooperative Agreement Local Funding for the National Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program

Dear Members of the Board:

The Health Services Agency (HSA) requests your Board's approval to submit a letter of intent to apply for a federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Cooperative Agreement Local Funding for the National Hospital Bioterrorism Preparedness Program grant. The State Department of Health Services (DHS) is administering the grant program for HRSA. The mission of this program is to ready hospitals and supporting health care systems to deliver coordinated and effective care to victims of terrorism and other public health emergencies. The HRSA allocation for Santa Cruz County is $281,339. The letter of intent is due to DHS by December 19, 2003. The application deadline is January 30, 2004.

The HRSA Cooperative Agreement will build upon the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funding for public health preparedness and response activities. These activities are allowing the health care system to become more prepared to deal with non-terrorist epidemics of rate diseases, exposures to chemical toxins and radiological materials, and mass casualties due to explosions. The prime focus of the HRSA Cooperative Agreement will be to develop, implement, and intensify regional terrorism preparedness plans and protocols for hospitals, outpatient facilities, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) systems (both freestanding and fire-based), and poison control centers in collaborative statewide or regional models. Integration of the health care system plans with the public health department response is critical.

Each local jurisdiction is required to convene a planning group to develop and submit the application to DHS outlining how the jurisdiction plans to spend the funds. The application must be signed by the local health jurisdiction, a hospital representative, a clinic representative, and a local emergency medical services agency (LEMSA) representative. The County's Emergency Management Council will serve as the planning group. In order to provide guidance to the Council, a subset will be convened that will include hospital and community clinic representation. HSA will stay in contact with our region to determine if there are any regional aspects associated with our application.

In order for local jurisdictions to satisfy HRSA requirements for direct funding, all of the local funding allocation must go to hospitals, outpatient facilities, EMS systems, and poison control centers through written agreements or purchase orders. The fiscal agent must be the local health jurisdiction. We will return to your Board with the HRSA application prior to its submittal.

It is, therefore, RECOMMENDED that your Board:

1. Authorize the Health Services Agency to submit a letter of intent to the State Department of Health Services for HRSA Cooperative Agreement Local Funding for the National Hospital Bioterrorism Preparedness in the amount of $281,339.

Sincerely,

Rama Khalsa, Ph.D.
Health Services Agency Director

RECOMMENDED:

Susan A. Mauriello
County Administrative Officer

cc: County Administrative Officer
Auditor Controller
County Counsel
HSA Administration
Public Health Administration