

**COUNTY OF SONOMA
AGENDA ITEM
SUMMARY REPORT**

Clerk of the Board Use Only
Meeting Date _____ Held Until _____
Agenda Item No: _____ Agenda Item No: _____

Department: Health Services

(X) 4/5 Vote Required

Contact:
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Board Date:
4/21/09

Deadline for Board Action:

AGENDA SHORT TITLE: Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency Regional Quality Improvement Plan

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:

Authorize the Director of Health Services to execute Standard Agreement #EMS-8054 with the State Emergency Medical Services Authority for the period of October 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, and future amendments that do not significantly change scope of work (\$40,000).

Resolution authorizing budgetary adjustments to the FY 08-09 Final Budget within the Special Revenue Fund – Department of Health Services in the amount of \$40,000 (requires 4/5 vote).

Authorize the Director of Health Services to execute an agreement with Fitch and Associates for the period April 15, 2009 to June 30, 2009, subject to County Counsel review, and future amendments that do not significantly change scope of work (\$40,000).

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT

EXPENDITURES

ADD'L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL

Estimated Cost \$ 40,000

Contingencies
(Fund Name:)

Amount Budgeted

Unanticipated Revenue \$ 40,000
(Source: EMS Grant)

Other Avail Approp
(Explain below)

Other Transfer(s)
(Source:)

Additional Requested: \$ 40,000

Add'l Funds Requested: \$ 40,000

Explanation (if required):

Prior Board Action(s): None.

Alternatives – Results of Non-Approval: Lost opportunity for State grant funding of Continuous Quality Improvement Plan development in the Coastal Valleys EMS Region.

BACKGROUND: (Note: Standard Agreement #EMS-8054 and Fitch and Associates Contract are on file with the Clerk of the Board.)

Pursuant to State law, the County of Sonoma Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency is responsible for oversight and regulation of the local EMS system. The Board has designated the Sonoma County Department of Health Services as the local EMS Agency (LEMSA) for Sonoma County and authorized agreements to provide EMS administration for Mendocino and Napa Counties. This three-county regional organization is formally known as the Coastal Valleys EMS Agency. The EMS Agency is responsible for planning, evaluating and implementing the emergency medical services system within the three counties in the region.

To assist the local EMS agency in performing its responsibilities, the State of California EMS Authority has made grant funding in the amount of \$40,000 available to the Coastal Valleys Regional EMS Agency through a Prevention 2010 Grant distributed to states by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This grant funding is available to Regional EMS Agencies only.

The EMS Agency will use these grant funds to improve the effectiveness of the regional Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) plan and all EMS CQI programs within the region. The project will have three focus areas:

Enhance the Coastal Valleys Regional Quality Improvement Plan (QIP).

The goal of this focus area is to expand the regional QIP to include review, summary and standardization of Advanced Life Support Provider QIP reports, coordinating region-wide focused quality improvement initiatives, and improving overall quality of the regional QIP. Benefits include expanding region-wide patient care monitoring activities, enhancing quality oversight capabilities, and increasing EMS system evaluation checks and balances.

Assist Advanced Life Support provider agencies with QIP implementation.

Currently each county within the EMS region has its own standards and processes for monitoring the quality of patient care. To support the provision of consistent high-quality care a universal standard must be adopted. The EMS Agency will work with each of the Advanced Life Support (ALS) providers to ensure that the standards defined in the regional QIP are appropriately implemented by all regional EMS provider agencies.

Provide recommendations for establishing a regional data system compliant with National Emergency Medical Service Information System (NEMSIS) standards.

Currently, there are many different Patient Care Report (PCR) formats in use throughout the region. Some providers use an electronic format, while others use a paper-based system. In order to improve the ability to analyze pre-hospital patient care, data must conform to a standard data set. Implementing the NEMSIS supports efficient data collection and the ability to evaluate system performance.

Attachments: Resolution authorizing budgetary adjustment in the amount of \$40,000.

On File With Clerk: Standard Agreement #EMS-8054; Fitch and Associates Contract.

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than "Requested")	Vote:

BACKGROUND: (continued)

The EMS Agency released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for consultation services to assist with the project of analysis and improvement of the region's quality improvement programs. The vendor list was developed in consultation with the Emergency Medical Services Administrators Association of California (EMSAAC). The RFP was posted for public review on the EMS Agency website. Requested services included:

- Detailed evaluation of the Advanced Life Support Provider QIP for each ALS provider in the region.
- Assistance in improving provider QIPs as indicated.
- Evaluation of the current regional QIP and assisting the Agency with updating the program to meet current State standards.
- Analysis of current prehospital data collection systems within the region.
- Recommendations for integrating available data into a regional database.

Three proposals were received and evaluated by a committee comprised of representatives from Sonoma, Napa, and Mendocino counties. The evaluation criteria included:

- Experience and expertise in EMS Quality Management.
- Demonstrated history of providing similar services to comparable entities.
- Quality of work as verified by references.
- Cost.

Based on the committee's evaluation, Fitch and Associates was selected to provide the requested services. Implementation of this project was delayed due to on-going communications with the State and the time needed to conduct the RFP process. Adequate time exists to accomplish the work required by the State agreement.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Department is appropriating grant funds of \$40,000 for this consulting contract. There is no contribution from the General Fund or use of Realignment.