

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Health Services Agency *MLA* BOARD AGENDA # \*B-1  
Urgent  Routine  AGENDA DATE May 14, 2013  
CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES  NO   
(Information Attached) 4/5 Vote Required YES  NO

SUBJECT:

Approval to Issue a Request for Proposals for a Laboratory Information Management System for the Health Services Agency Public Health Laboratory

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Authorize the General Services Agency to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) for the Health Services Agency (HSA) Public Health Laboratory.
2. Authorize the HSA Managing Director or her designee to return to the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation resulting from the review of anticipated proposals.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Adopted Final Fiscal Year 2012-2013 HSA Public Health budget is approximately \$24 million. As of March 31, 2013, the available HSA Public Health Fund balance, which is restricted for use for public health program activities, is approximately \$1,912,000 due to cost savings from various programs.

(Continued on Page 2)

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2013-233

On motion of Supervisor Monteith, Seconded by Supervisor O'Brien

and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Withrow, Monteith, De Martini and Chairman Chiesa

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

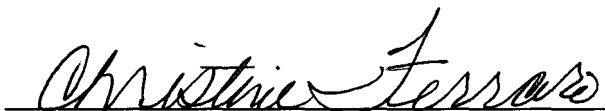
1)  Approved as recommended

2)  Denied

3)  Approved as amended

4)  Other:

MOTION:



ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

**FISCAL IMPACT (Continued):**

The estimated Public Health Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) project cost as included in the 2010-2011 Capital Improvement Plan was \$1,000,177. On November 19, 2009, the Public Facilities Fees (PFF) Committee approved the use of PFF in the amount of \$327,544 for the LIMS project. In addition to the PFF award, funding from the 2012-2013 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant of approximately \$90,000 and from the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) grant of approximately \$95,000 have been allocated to this project. The estimated \$488,000 for internal labor and implementation costs will be included in the Recommended Proposed Fiscal Year 2013-2014 budget, most of which are existing costs and resources that will be allocated to this project. The HSA Public Health Fund balance will be used to cover any additional project costs. There will be no impact to the County's General Fund.

Aside from initial purchase and implementation costs, there will be ongoing annual support and maintenance costs estimated at a range of \$10,000-\$15,000 per year based upon current market analysis. The HSA will be able to eliminate annual maintenance costs of \$16,236 related to the Meditech Laboratory Modules currently used, saving an estimated \$1,200 a year.

**DISCUSSION:**

Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) is a software system used in laboratories for the management of samples, laboratory users, instruments, standards and other laboratory functions such as specimen management and workflow automation. Use of a modern and robust LIMS would enable the Public Health Laboratory to increase productivity and efficiency of laboratory processes in order to meet operational responsibilities and public health mandates resulting in cost savings that generate revenue for sustainment. The Public Health Laboratory assists in providing community surveillance of disease outbreaks such as Norovirus and H1N1. The ability to transmit information between the Public Health Laboratory and medical providers throughout Stanislaus County provides expedited testing enabling improved patient care.

LIMS software receives, processes, and stores information generated by laboratory processes while interfacing with instruments and other information systems such as electronic health records. A LIMS would allow ambulatory care physicians and clinical staff, including the HSA Clinics system, to request and review laboratory testing on-line. The Public Health Laboratory does not currently have these capabilities.

LIMS would enable the Public Health Laboratory to streamline laboratory workflow, ensure greater compliance with the regulatory program i.e. Clinical Laboratory

Improvement Amendment (CLIA) and allow the secure exchange of clinical data with providers, patients, and information systems.

LIMS will also improve medical care as these systems allow details of the patient laboratory record to be available to a patient's health care provider when and where it is needed. Without the necessity to locate and deliver a paper-based chart with test results, public and private health care providers using LIMS will immediately see increased efficiencies and reduced operating costs.

Implementation of a LIMS will assist the HSA to achieve compliance with the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act of 2010 and Stage 2 Meaningful Use Requirements for Public Health Laboratory Reporting as identified in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. One way to demonstrate compliance for the Public Health Laboratory is to have an electronic data system that is capable of sending reports to the state notifiable disease reporting system, the California Reportable Disease Information Exchange (CalREDIE). In addition, as California Health Information Exchanges are implemented, the Public Health Laboratory will need to have the capability to receive electronic test requests and extract patient demographic information from patient records through this interchange.

The Public Health LIMS project has been included since the 2010-2011 Capital Improvement Plan, but was mistakenly reported as completed. The error will be corrected and the project will be included in the proposed 2013-2014 Capital Improvement Plan.

**POLICY ISSUES:**

Approval of this item supports the Board priorities of A Healthy Community and Efficient Delivery of Public Services by providing an electronic exchange of information to expedite the care and treatment of patients and assist the HSA to achieve new electronic compliance standards.

**STAFFING IMPACT:**

Existing staff will perform the duties associated with this project.

**CONTACT PERSON:**

Colleen Woolsey, Associate Director, 209-558-6833.