

Setting the Standard in Health Care Excellence

June 18, 2024

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Approval of, and Authorization for the County Purchasing Agent or Designee to Sign, the Agreement for Deputy Health Officer-Tuberculosis Controller Physician for Communicable Disease Services with Uldine Castel, M.D., Effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, and Up to Two Fiscal Years Thereafter, for a Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$227,204 Per Fiscal Year; Appointment of Uldine Castel, M.D. as Interim Health Officer, Effective July 1, 2024.

Recommendations:

1. Approve and authorize the County Purchasing Agent or designee to sign the agreement for Deputy Health Officer-Tuberculosis Controller (TB Controller) Physician for Communicable Disease Services with Uldine Castel, M.D. (Exhibit 1) for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, and up to two fiscal years thereafter, for an amount not to exceed \$227,204 per fiscal year.
2. Appoint Uldine Castel, M.D., Interim Health Officer, effective July 1, 2024, pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 101000.

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:**Mandatory:** Yes**Source of Funding:** General Fund**Funding Match Required:** None**Impact on Other Departments:** None

Summary of Revenues and Costs:	<u>FY 2023-24</u>	<u>FY 2024-25</u>
Revenue:	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Costs:		
Direct	\$	\$ 227,204
Indirect-Dept.	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Indirect-County CAP	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Net Costs	\$	\$ 227,204
Recovered Indirect Costs	\$ -0-	\$ -0-

FY 2023-24 Budget Projections:

FY 2023-2024 Budget Projection for Public Health, Unit 3109 – Clinics, TB, CD, and IZ				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Actuals	Estimated Savings/ (Deficit)
Appropriations	\$ 7,897,338	\$ 9,233,415	\$ 8,872,372	\$ 361,043
Revenue	\$ 7,219,735	\$ 8,255,418	\$ 8,317,671	\$ 62,253
Net Cost	\$ 677,603	\$ 977,997	\$ 554,701	\$ 423,296

Sufficient appropriations are included in the FY 2024-2025 Preliminary Budget for this unit to support this action.

Strategic Plan Priority:

The item presented in this Board letter aligns with the Healthy, Safe, and Resilient Communities strategic priority of the County Strategic Plan as it is designed to meet the goal of providing equitable and timely access to quality public health services.

Discussion:

Uldine Castel, M.D. has served as the Deputy Health Officer - Tuberculosis (TB) Controller Physician (TB Controller) since 2006. Dr. Castel's contract will expire at the end of June 2024. The proposed new contract before your Board will continue her services as Deputy Health Officer - Tuberculosis (TB) Controller Physician and allow her to serve as Interim Health Officer, effective July 1, 2024. The contract term is July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. Then, unless either party provides written notice of its intent not to renew at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual renewal date and subject to receipt of all necessary budgetary approvals by your Board, this Agreement shall then be extended for up to two (2) additional periods of one (1) year each.

Dr. Castel will continue to provide clinic services twice a week at the TB Specialty Clinic for all active and inactive TB cases in the County and is also responsible for managing the County's medical response to a potential TB outbreak by communicating and educating local medical providers and members of the public about TB as needed. Dr. Castel also monitors private medical providers that treat TB to ensure they are using best practices.

Under the proposed contract (Exhibit 1), Dr. Castel shall continue to work collaboratively with the Infectious Disease Program Administrator and the Public Health Director to oversee all activities that have program and clinical implications for patients, families, providers, and communities. These activities include prevention control of the spread of communicable diseases within the County by controlling and treating disease, policy and procedure development, development and leadership of quality assurance and utilization review, consultation with medical providers and coordination of care with the California Department of Public Health.

Dr. Castel will continue to be reimbursed for conference and training related expenses, up to a maximum of \$2,500, resulting in an annual contract in an amount not-to-exceed \$227,204. The other material provisions of Dr. Castel's existing contract will be unchanged.

Dr. Castel has acted as the Public Health Officer when the Health Officer was unavailable and will now serve as Interim Health Officer until a new Health Officer is selected. She will increase her scheduled work time by twelve hours (12) per week to provide Medical Director and Health Officer oversight in Public Health. Pursuant to California law, we request that your Board appoint Dr. Castel as Interim Health Officer for Ventura County.

This letter has been reviewed by County Counsel, the Auditor-Controller's Office, County Executive Office, and the General Services Agency-Procurement. If you have any questions regarding this item, please call Rigoberto Vargas at (805) 981-5101.


RIGOBERTO VARGAS
Public Health Director


BARRY ZIMMERMAN
Health Care Agency Director

Exhibit 1 – Agreement for Uldine Castel, M.D.