
Setting the Standard in Health Care Excellence

July 23, 2024

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

Subject: Approval of, and Authorization for the Public Health Director to Sign, Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement with Public Health Institute (PHI) for the Provision of Services in Support of the Ventura County Community Information Exchange Expanding the Role of PHI, Allowing for a No-Cost Extension of Phase I to July 31, 2025, and Adding a New Insurance Requirement, with No Change to the Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$7,200,000, Effective August 1, 2024 Through December 31, 2025; Approval of, and Authorization for the Public Health Director to Make Limited Modifications of the Agreement.

Recommendations:

1. Approval of, and authorization for the Public Health Director to sign, Amendment No. 1 to the agreement with Public Health Institute in support of the Ventura County Community Information Exchange, expanding the role of PHI, allowing for a no-cost extension of Phase I to July 31, 2025 and adding a new insurance requirement, with no change to the not-to-exceed amount of \$7,200,000, effective August 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025.
2. Authorization for the Public Health Director to amend the agreement, to approve budget modifications, corrections, clarifications, technical changes and modifications to the Scope of Work, when the changes are consistent with the original purpose of the agreement and do not result in additional costs to the County, subject to County Counsel review and approval.

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

Mandatory: No

Source of Funding: California Department of Public Health, Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Enhancing Detection Expansion (EDX) Funding; American Rescue Plan (ARPA) – State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF)

Funding Match Required: No

Impact on Other Departments: None

Summary of Revenues and Costs:	<u>FY 2024-25</u>	<u>FY 2025-26</u>
Revenue:	\$ 150,000	\$ -0-
Costs:		
Direct	\$ 3,150,000	\$ -0-
Indirect-Dept.	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Indirect-County CAP	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Net Costs	\$ 3,000,000	\$ -0-
Recovered Indirect Costs	\$ -0-	\$ -0-

Public Health has sufficient appropriations earmarked for the management of the VCCIE.

FY 2024-25 Budget Projections:

FY 2024-2025 Budget Projection for Ventura County Public Health, 3100				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings (Deficit)
Appropriations	\$ 37,997,363	\$ 37,997,363	\$ 37,997,363	-0-
Revenue	\$ 34,000,823	\$ 34,000,823	\$ 34,000,823	-0-
Net Cost	\$3,996,540	\$3,996,540	\$3,996,540	-0-

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:

On January 24, 2023, the Ventura County Public Health (VCPH) Department came before your Board and obtained approval to enter into contract with the Public Health Institute (PHI) to manage the Ventura County Community Information Exchange (VCCIE) initiative. The VCCIE initiative was identified through VCPH's Community Health Needs Assessment that is conducted every three years. Ventura County Public Health received funding through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021, through a California Department of Public Health grant called Enhancing Laboratory Detection (ELC). Of this grant award, \$4.2 million funded preliminary design and development activities for the VCCIE. Your Board also approved \$3 million for this initiative through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to invest in addressing the vital health and social services needs of our community. These combined sources of funding total \$7.2 million.

PHI is an independent non-profit organization that provides fiscal sponsorship and strategic partnerships in the private sector and with governmental entities. PHI is dedicated to advancing public health practice and making systematic improvements to population health globally.

Under the agreement, PHI serves as the non-profit fiscal and administrative agent on behalf of the VCCIE governance board which includes representatives from Child Development Resources, Camarillo Healthcare District, Clinicas del Camino Real, Community Memorial Hospital, Dignity Health, District Attorney's office, Gold Coast Health Plan, Health Care Agency, Human Services Agency, Many Mansions, Simi Valley Adventist Health, Ventura County Office of Education, and Ventura County Community Foundation.

The VCCIE initiative sets out to create a system that allows multidisciplinary partners to exchange information through an integrated system of care to address social determinants of health such as housing, food, transportation, childcare, etc. This type of person-centered approach requires cross-sector collaborations between healthcare systems, social service providers, and community-based organizations (CBOs) working together to coordinate care. The objective of the VCCIE is to build a platform by which providers can share and exchange data through referrals to connect individuals to services. In doing so, it aims to increase health and social equity by streamlining access to care. Facilitating referrals between service providers to address and provide social needs proves challenging when navigating the privacy and security of an individual's personal information. The VCCIE's goal is to create a service delivery system that can improve individuals' quality of life and improve health outcomes in our community.

The current contract with PHI consists of two phases of work. Phase I focused on the development and operational design of the VCCIE and was originally set to end on July 31, 2024, which aligned with the expiration of the grant funding. VCPH received notice from the California Department of Public Health on November 13, 2023, that the grant funds were extended for continued use through July 31, 2025. Due to the extension and an unanticipated carryforward balance of funds, VCPH, in partnership with VCCIE governance board, recommends that your Board approve a no-cost extension of Phase I through July 31, 2025. This extension will allow PHI to continue to provide the program management and administrative support to manage sub-contracts with vendors, manage security and privacy requirements, and facilitate ongoing projects related to implementing and operating the VCCIE. In addition, the amendment will expand PHI's role from fiscal and administrative agent for the VCCIE to owner and operator of the VCCIE for the benefit of Ventura County residents. The VCCIE Governance Board will continue to serve in an advisory capacity. Finally, the contract, as amended, will include a requirement for cyber liability (security and privacy) coverage related to the creation and operation of the VCCIE technology platform.

The remaining net cost of \$3,000,000 for Phase II of the contract is anticipated to be funded by the General Fund in accordance with the County's funding strategy for the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) made available through the American

Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This action was finalized and approved by your Board on October 11, 2022, and December 13, 2022, after a comprehensive 18-month process led by the CEO which included internal and external needs assessment, broad community engagement, and project prioritization. The scope of work for Phase II remains to be determined. The contract expiration for Phase II will remain December 31, 2025 and the contract will be modified as necessary at a future date.

This letter has been reviewed by County Counsel, the Auditor-Controller's Office, and the County Executive Office. If you have any questions regarding this item, please call Katie McKinney, Assistant Public Health Director, at 805-981-5191.



RIGOBERTO VARGAS
Public Health Director



THERESA CHO, MD
Health Care Agency Director

Attachments:

Exhibit 1 – Contract with Public Health Institute
Exhibit 2 - Amendment No. 1 to Contract with Public Health Institute