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**Christopher Young, MD**  
Chief Medical Examiner

April 9, 2019

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

**Subject:** Approval of, and Authorization for the Health Care Agency Director or Designee to Sign, a Memorandum of Understanding with St. John's Regional Medical Center for HIV 1 & 2 Antigen and Antibody Testing by the Ventura County Public Health Department Laboratory for a Two-Year Term (July 1, 2019 Through June 30, 2021), with Automatic Renewals for Additional One-Year Terms, Until Terminated.

**Recommendation:**

That your Board approve and authorize the Health Care Agency Director or designee to execute, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with St. John's Regional Medical Center (SJPMC) (Exhibit 1) for a two-year term (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021), with automatic renewals for additional one (1) year terms, until terminated.

**Fiscal/Mandates Impact:**

**Mandatory:** No

**Source of Funding:** SJPMC laboratory test fees

**Funding Match Required:** No

**Impact on Other Departments:** None

Summary of Revenues and Costs:	<b><u>FY 2018-19</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2019-20</u></b>
Revenue:	\$ -0-	\$ 121,560
Costs:		
Direct	\$ -0-	\$ 24,312
Indirect-Dept.	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Indirect-County CAP	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Net Costs	\$ -0-	\$ (97,248)
Recovered Indirect Costs	\$ -0-	\$ -0-

<b>FY 2018-2019 Budget Projection for HCA PH Lab and Vital Records Unit 3111</b>				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings (Deficit)
Appropriations	\$2,081,302	\$2,135,284	\$2,212,206	\$(76,922)
Revenue	\$2,161,907	\$2,161,907	\$2,206,908	\$45,001
Net Cost	\$(80,605)	\$(26,623)	\$5,298	\$(31,921)

**Discussion:**

The proposed MOU is for the Ventura County Public Health (VCPH) laboratory to provide HIV 1 & 2 Antigen and Antibody testing on specimens submitted by SJRMC. SJRMC requested that the County perform this testing, because handling potentially infectious organisms is best done by staff and laboratories that are trained to handle such organisms and have the facilities available to do so.

The MOU establishes procedures, identifies individual and joint responsibilities, and strengthens the lines of communication between the parties. The MOU shall be effective for an initial term of two (2) years from July 1, 2019, and thereafter shall automatically renew for additional terms of one (1) year each. Termination may occur by either party, without cause, by providing at least sixty (60) days' prior written notice to the other party. SJRMC is responsible for delivering the specimens to the laboratory and payment to the County for services rendered, within thirty (30) working days of receipt of an invoice, among other requirements. Payment will be at the Medi-Cal rate, which is currently \$20.26 per test.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that adults be tested annually for HIV. When identified early, disease transmission is lessened due to lower viral loads. Currently, both County hospitals send blood specimens for HIV testing to the VCPH laboratory, with 28,666 tests completed in Fiscal Year 2017-18, and 18,293 tests completed to date in the current fiscal year. It is anticipated that the number of tests ordered by SJRMC will be about 500 per month for next fiscal year.

The well-established relationship between VCPH's laboratory and the VCPH HIV/AIDS program has proven to be effective in providing efficient and effective follow up services by HIV/AIDS program staff. Expanding HIV laboratory testing services to SJRMC will allow for the same timely response to patients seen at SJRMC who have tested positive for HIV. The VCPH HIV/AIDS program services include intensive case management and linkage to medical care to minimize the spread of HIV infection. No additional staff will be needed to provide these services.

**Strategic Plan:**

Implementation of the expanded HIV testing services aligns with Focus Area 4, Community Well Being; Strategic Goal 1, Objective numbers 1 and 3, of the Ventura County Strategic Plan.

**Health in All Policies:**

The proposed expansion of HIV testing services is in alignment with the California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS, "Getting to Zero" campaign. This campaign aims to bring the number of HIV new infections to zero. Early identification of new cases will allow for our HIV/AIDS program staff to mitigate further spread of HIV infection.

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 Rigoberto Vargas at (805) 981-5101.



RIGOBERTO VARGAS  
Public Health Director



KARLA VALLE  
HCA Chief Financial Officer



WILLIAM T. FOLEY  
Health Care Agency Director

Exhibit 1 – SJRMC & VCPH MOU