

Setting the Standard in Health Care Excellence

November 10, 2020

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

Subject: Approval of, and Authorization for the County Purchasing Agent to Sign, the Agreement for Health Officer/Medical Director of the Public Health Department with Robert M. Levin, M.D., Effective December 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, for a Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$190,941, and for a Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$301,789 per Year for Up to Two Fiscal Years Thereafter.

Recommendation:

That your Board approve and authorize the County Purchasing Agent to sign the Agreement for Health Officer/Medical Director of the Public Health Department with Robert M. Levin, M.D. (Exhibit 1) in an amount not to exceed \$190,941 for the period of December 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, and for a not to exceed amount of \$301,789 per year for up to two fiscal years thereafter.

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

Mandatory: Yes

Source of Funding: Realignment and Various State Contracts

Funding Match Required: No

Impact on Other Departments: None

Summary of Revenues and Costs:	<u>FY 2020-21</u>	<u>FY 2021-22</u>
Revenue:	\$ 301,789	\$301,789
Costs:		
Direct	\$ 301,789	\$301,789
Indirect-Dept.	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Indirect-County CAP	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Net Costs	\$ -0-	\$ -0-

FY 2020-21 Budget Projections:

FY 2020-2021 Budget Projection for PH – Administration, Unit 3103				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings (Deficit)
Appropriations	\$ 3,988,088	\$ 3,988,088	\$ 3,988,088	-0-
Revenue	\$ 2,259,728	\$ 2,549,728	\$ 2,549,728	-0-
Net Cost	\$ 1,438,360	\$ 1,438,360	\$ 1,438,360	-0-

Discussion:

Robert M. Levin, M.D. has served as the Health Officer and Medical Director of the Ventura County Public Health Department since March 1, 1998. The Health Officer is responsible for the enforcement of local health orders, ordinances, and state health laws and regulations. The Health Officer is the consulting medical officer for the Environmental Health Division, Agriculture Commissioner, Animal Services, and other agencies including the County Executive Office and Board of Supervisors.

In carrying out such responsibilities, the Health Officer is charged with community health surveillance, assessment, and reporting. In addition, the Health Officer serves as the Medical Director of the Public Health Department and provides medical oversight and consultation to programs and services of the Public Health Department, including Children’s Medical Services and Maternal Child Adolescent Health programs. This includes setting medical policy and quality of care standards, as well as providing direct clinical services in the area of communicable disease and pediatrics.

Dr. Levin’s medical background is in pediatrics and infectious diseases. During his tenure, the County of Ventura has successfully responded to several outbreaks, including norovirus, salmonella and measles and pandemics such as H1N1. He has been essential in the Public Health Department’s successful efforts to become the first public health department to be accredited in California in 2014 and its most recent re-accreditation this year. During the COVID-19 pandemic Dr. Levin has been instrumental in helping to mitigate the spread of the virus especially among our most vulnerable populations and to help our businesses and schools safely reopen.

In response to the needs of the Public Health Department and the residents of Ventura County, Dr. Levin has assumed additional roles that will require a considerable amount of his time. His recent appointments include becoming an at-large board member of the California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO), an advisory board member to the California Governor and State Legislature Office, and a member of the California COVID Immunization Task Force.

Dr. Levin’s most recent annual contract expired at the end of June 2020. Effective July 1, 2020, Dr. Levin’s contract was to be renewed. Due to priorities related to COVID-19, time and effort

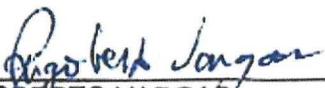
were not directed to finalizing a new contract or coming before your Board until now. The contract was extended twice, through the Purchasing Agent's authority, from July 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020 and again from October 1, 2020 through November 30, 2020. The terms of Dr. Levin's prior contract included a compensation of \$271,034 per annum for the past three (3) years.

In preparation for negotiation of a new contract the County performed a compensation survey of comparable medical director positions and health officers in the state and found that the contractual compensation for the County's Health Officer was materially below market. As a result, the contract before your Board calls for an increase of \$2,771/per month representing a 12.5% increase for a total annual compensation of \$299,289. The contract also includes a reimbursement of conference and training related expenses, up to a maximum of \$2,500, resulting in a total annual contract amount of \$301,789. The other material provisions of Dr. Levin's existing contract remain unchanged. Since a new contract was not able to be implemented at the beginning of the fiscal year due to COVID response priorities the contract also calls for a one-time payment in the amount of \$13,855.95 to accomplish the 12.5% contract increase for the months that transpired under the previously extended contract during the current fiscal year.

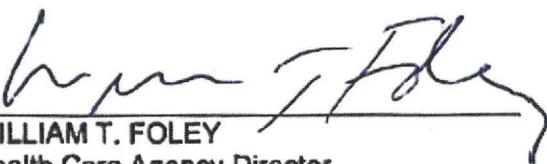
The proposed new contract before your Board will continue Health Officer services effective as of December 1, 2020 for an initial period of seven (7) months, through June 30, 2021. Then, unless either party provides written notice of its intent not to renew at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual 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.

This letter has been reviewed by County Counsel, the Auditor-Controller's Office, County Executive Office, and 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



WILLIAM T. FOLEY
Health Care Agency Director

Exhibit 1 – Agreement for Health Officer/Medical Director of the Public Health Department with Robert M. Levin, M.D.