

January 24, 2023

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 an Agreement with Public Health Institute for the Provision of Services in Support of the Ventura County Community Information Exchange in an Amount Not to Exceed \$7,200,000, Effective February 1, 2023 through December 31, 2025; Authorization for the Public Health Director to Extend the Term of the Agreement and Approve Limited Contract Modifications Upon Review and Approval by the County Executive Office and County Counsel.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that your Board:

1. Authorize the Public Health Director to sign an agreement with Public Health Institute in an amount not to exceed \$7,200,000, effective February 1, 2023 through December 31, 2025, consistent with all relevant federal, state and County purchasing and contracting policies, to provide administrative support and serve as the fiscal agent on behalf of Ventura County Public Health for the management of Ventura County's Community Information Exchange.
2. Authorization for the Public Health Director to extend the term of the agreement, to approve corrections, clarifications and technical changes and modifications to the agreement, when the changes are consistent with the original purpose of the Agreement, do not result in additional costs to the County, and are approved by the County Executive Office and County Counsel.

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

Mandatory: No

Source of Funding: California Department of Public Health, Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Enhancing Detection Expansion (EDX) Funding, General Fund

Funding Match Required: No

Impact on Other Departments: None

Summary of Revenues and Costs:	<u>FY 2022-23</u>	<u>FY 2023-24</u>
Revenue:	\$ 1,945,000	\$ 2,255,000
Costs:		
Direct	\$ 1,945,000	\$ 5,255,000
Indirect-Dept.	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Indirect-County CAP	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Net Costs	\$ -0-	\$ 3,000,000
Recovered Indirect Costs	\$ -0-	\$ -0-

Public Health has sufficient appropriations of \$7,200,000 in the current FY 2022-23 earmarked for the management of the VCCIE.

FY 2022-23 Budget Projections:

FY 2022-2023 Budget Projection for Ventura County Public Health, 3113				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings (Deficit)
Appropriations	\$ 20,791,090	\$ 27,111,801	\$ 27,111,801	\$-0-
Revenue	\$ 20,791,090	\$ 25,832,362	\$ 25,832,362	\$-0-
Net Cost	\$0	\$ 1,279,439	\$ 1,279,439	\$-0-

Background:

On November 1, 2022, the Ventura County Public Health (VCPH) Department came before your Board and obtained approval to enter into a contract with Communities Lifting Communities (CLC) to serve as the non-profit fiscal and administrative agent to manage the Community Information Exchange (CIE) initiative for Ventura County. CLC, per the letter in Exhibit 1, has since notified us that they are no longer able to enter into the contract, so we are requesting your Board for approval to enter into a contract instead with Public Health Institute (PHI).

By way of background, a CIE is a model being used by various counties to connect health care systems, managed care plans, social services, community-based service providers, and government agencies in sharing client-level data and use referrals to track a client's journey towards improved health and well-being. This data-sharing is achieved by creating and implementing a data-sharing platform that allows for interoperability of various systems. Counties including Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Sonoma, and Alameda are all working on similar CIE initiatives.

This concept originated locally through the Ventura County Community Health Improvement Collaborative (VCCHIC) comprised of various community partners including, but not limited to, Adventist Health Simi Valley, Camarillo Health Care District, Clinicas Del Camino Real, Community Memorial Health Care System, Dignity Health, Gold Coast Health Plan, Ventura Health Care Agency, and Ventura County Public Health. A collaborative health needs assessment was conducted which identified the need to improve access to health services by addressing social needs of high-risk individuals. To accomplish this goal, VCCHIC and other stakeholders began planning for the development of a CIE in Ventura County. A CIE governance board was established, comprised of various members of the VCCHIC, to explore the concept of a CIE in Ventura County.

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). This grant award of approximately \$4.2M will fund preliminary activities to develop an implementation strategy for the CIE and ends on July 31, 2024, so it is imperative that key milestones be achieved this year in order to launch the CIE. The remaining net cost of \$3,000,000 for FY23-24 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. After the ELC end date of July 31, 2024, other funding opportunities to continue support of the project will be explored such as California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) incentives and programs.

In December 2022, CLC informed VCPH that they would not be able to fulfill the provisions of the contract that had been approved by your Board on November 1, 2022 (Exhibit 1). As work continued through November and December 2022 and the project scope expanded in complexity, CLC indicated that they would not be able to perform full-scale administrative and fiscal agent support for managing sub-contracts for vendors including a community hub to manage referrals and a vendor to maintain the shared technology platform. Fortunately, CLC informed VCPH of this development prior to executing the contract effective January 1, 2023. VCPH, in partnership with the Ventura County CIE governance board, subsequently identified the Public Health Institute as an alternative non-profit partner to provide CIE support for our county.

PHI has been involved with the planning efforts for Ventura County's CIE via a contract for subject matter expertise in the area of strategy and development. Katherine Johnson joined the project as a senior advisor on behalf of PHI in July 2021 to provide this subject matter expertise. In her consultant role on behalf of PHI, Ms. Johnson has provided support and guidance as the chief strategy officer of the CIE initiative. PHI has a proven history as a non-profit public health organization of providing expertise in fiduciary oversight, award compliance, subrecipient monitoring, and fiscal administration for public health initiatives. They serve to bridge the gaps between governmental jurisdictions, community-based organizations (CBO's), and the communities they serve. Their fiscal sponsorship provides support for budgetary, procurement, and hiring regulations and policies. PHI will work jointly to carry out the contracted scope of work for VCPH while also serving as a fiscal sponsor for the CIE governance board, comprised of various community partners throughout Ventura County. PHI adheres to the highest standards for managing pass-through funding, monitoring awards and contracts, data security and privacy, and complex business requirements. Examples of PHI's work include COVID-19 response equity projects such as a \$40 million initiative in California called Together Toward Health (TTH) which addresses the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 in California's most vulnerable communities, as well as a \$30M federally funded project called Children's Oncology Group (COG) which is geared towards childhood and adolescent cancer research.

Discussion:

A CIE focuses on providing person-centered comprehensive care for populations at increased risk of severe illness or death by addressing social determinants of health such as housing, food, transportation, mental health services, childcare, etc. This type of person-centered approach requires partnerships between the VCPH, healthcare systems, social service providers, and community-based organizations (CBOs) to work together to resolve barriers and silos by sharing and exchanging data through referrals. Facilitating referrals to address and provide social needs proves challenging when navigating the privacy and security of an individual's protected health information. Additionally, each organization uses their own technology platform to track client and patient data which prevents interoperability of various systems.

A CIE model will tackle these barriers by contracting a community hub to manage the partners who participate in the CIE, and a technology vendor to provide the data-sharing platform solution. Based on the preliminary work performed to date, it is anticipated that with the support of PHI, a request for proposal (RFP), can be ready to release to identify a community hub vendor by Spring 2023. A subsequent RFP will be conducted to identify a technology vendor to integrate data from various systems shortly thereafter.

A CIE performs optimally when managed by a non-profit organization, which operates in support of the CIE governance board comprised of various community partners. The non-profit entity serves as the fiscal and administrative agent or "backbone" in support of this

board. Ventura County's CIE governance board provides advisory direction to address community needs that are unique to our community, which are identified through VCPH's Community Health Needs Assessment that is conducted every three years.

Recommendations

Your Board had previously approved a contract with CLC to serve as the fiscal and administrative agent to manage the CIE initiative for Ventura County. After CLC notified VCPH that they would not be able to fulfill the scope of work, PHI was identified as an alternative to perform these services. PHI is an independent non-profit organization that is dedicated to advancing public health practice and making systematic improvements to population health globally. They are centrally located in Oakland, California and provide support to over 200 programs and initiatives around the world. VCPH, in partnership with Ventura County's CIE governance board, recommends that your Board approve the attached contract with PHI (Exhibit 2) to perform these services. PHI will provide the organizational and administrative support to manage sub-contracts with vendors, seek legal and technical expertise on security and privacy requirements, and facilitate ongoing projects related to implementing the CIE. The recommended contract term is February 1, 2023 through December 31, 2025, with options to extend up to two additional years based on project status and funding.

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 805-981-5196.


RIGOBERTO VARGAS
Public Health Director


BARRY ZIMMERMAN
Health Care Agency Director

Attachments:

Exhibit 1 – Letter from Communities Lifting Communities dated 12/14/22

Exhibit 2 – Contract with Public Health Institute