



Board Agenda Item 40

DATE: September 9, 2025

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBMITTED BY: Joe Prado, Interim Director, Department of Public Health

SUBJECT: MOU with California Department of Public Health and the Association of Public Health Laboratories

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

- 1. Approve and authorize the Chairman to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in collaboration with the Association of Public Health Laboratories, a joint initiative, designated for the Public Health Laboratory Fellowship and Internship Program, for qualified participants to gain valuable career experience, effective as of the date first signed by both parties for a period of one year after the effective date (\$0); and**
- 2. Approve and authorize the Director of the Department of Public Health, or designee, to be the signatory on behalf of the Board of Supervisors on associated documents, forms and reports.**

There is no increase in Net County Cost associated with the recommended actions. The proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) outlines a collaborative effort to provide a comprehensive learning experience in an operational public health laboratory. This initiative aims to offer participants hands-on training, mentorship, and exposure to real-world diagnostic, surveillance, and research practices vital to public health preparedness and response. This item is countywide.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION(S):

Should your Board not approve the recommended actions, there will continue to be a shortage of skilled professionals in the local laboratory workforce. The lack of training opportunities could deter individuals from pursuing careers in laboratory sciences in our region.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no increase in Net County Cost associated with the recommended actions. The recommended MOU does not provide any compensation between the County and the CDC or APHL.

DISCUSSION:

The proposed MOU between the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) and selected fellowship participants ("Fellows") is intended to formalize the partnership and establish a shared understanding of legal rights, responsibilities, and expectations for both parties throughout the fellowship period. This agreement enables Fellows to participate in a structured, high-quality training experience designed to enhance workforce capacity within the DPH Laboratory. Fellows will contribute to critical public health initiatives while benefiting from mentorship, technical development, and professional growth opportunities.

Fellows are expected to submit progress reports, uphold ethical standards, accurately report their time, and actively participate in all designated training and professional development activities. Fellows will receive stipends and health benefits directly through APHL in accordance with program guidelines.

The MOU includes provisions for mutual indemnification between the parties and authorizes the County to extend coverage to program participants under its Workers' Compensation policy.

ATTACHMENTS INCLUDED AND/OR ON FILE:

On file with Clerk - MOU with APHL

CAO ANALYST:

Ron Alexander