DEPARTMENT: HEALTH

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Discussion with Board of Supervisors regarding impending deadline for a decision regarding continuing to contract with the State Department of Health Services for State Public Health Staff using Health Realignment funds. Possible adoption of a resolution.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Health Officer has previously informed Board Members through memo and personal discussion of this impending problem. The attached memo from the State appears to be a final ultimatum.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Financial Impact? ( ) Yes ( ) No Current FY Cost: $
Budgeted In Current FY? ( ) Yes ( ) No ( ) Partially Funded
Amount in Budget: $
Additional Funding Needed: $
Source:
Internal Transfer
Unanticipated Revenue ___ 4/5’s vote
Transfer Between Funds ___ 4/5’s vote
Contingency ___ 4/5’s vote
( ) General ( ) Other

CLERK’S USE ONLY:
Res. No.: 05-191 Ord. No. _____
Vote – Ayes: 5 Noes: ____ Absent: ___
Approved
If Minute Order Attached ( ) No Action Necessary

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.
Date:
Attest: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
County of Mariposa, State of California
By: ________
Deputy

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:
Requested Action Recommended
No Opinion
Comments:

CAO: ________

Revised Dec. 2002
April 25, 2005

TO: Members, Board of Supervisors
    Rich Inman, County Administrative Officer

FROM: Charles B. Mosher, MD, MPH, Health Officer

SUBJECT: Serious Financial Problem Created by the State

In October of 2004, I warned the Board of a possible move by the State to increase costs to small county Public Health departments (see attached).

In February, I copied the CAO on a letter responding to the threat from the State to demand a significant increase in the amount we pay for State staff in Mariposa (under a contract with DHS). Usually, when such threats become paper and ink, there is at least some willingness to spend time in exploring ways to ease the process smoothly.

However, the Department of Health Services is being exceedingly strident and insensitive to the needs of the smallest counties in this regard. See the attached memo which was received by e-mail (and signed with some electronic signature machine).

The significant issue is that all of the eleven “contract” counties, including Mariposa, are being required to come up with additional money over what we have usually budgeted to maintain critical State Public Health staff in the County or leave the program (with State staff reassigned elsewhere). They appear to be unwilling to deviate from their May 31st deadline. I, along with others, have been leading a charge trying to get a more reasonable timeframe, but for now, it looks like that isn’t going to happen.

Mariposa County, were we to capitulate to their extortion, would have to come up with an additional $70,052 of Health Realignment Funds to maintain the current arrangement.
Actual costs of the three State staff remaining in Mariposa (utilizing their State salaries and benefits) is $274,300. That means that the State is trying to extract over $199,970 more than what the State staff actually costs to help support some office at the State. I have no choice but to incorporate a resolution of this issue within the budget this year. That will make the budget significantly different from past years, although my goal will be, as it is every budget year, to refrain from wholesale escalation of the net county cost.

I continue to be in contact with State agencies, fighting on our behalf in this regard, but frankly, it smells ominous. The Department of Health Services appears to have abandoned any commitment to Public Health in favor of budgetary manipulations (manipulations which are, in fact, absurd. Any State staff assigned within the program of “Contract Counties” will have to be reassigned elsewhere under union rules and, therefore, the State will not save a penny by killing the Contract Counties support program).

Feel free to call me to discuss this issue if you wish. It is a little bit complicated.

/ga

Encl

cc: Sheryl Terry, Accountant II
     Marna Klinkhammer, PHN
     David L. Conway, REHS
     Brian C. Hodge, REHS
MARIPOSA COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 05-191

CONTRACT WITH LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006

WHEREAS, Mariposa is a small, rural county with minimal financial resources, but very significant Public Health problems and issues, and

WHEREAS, the State of California recognized fifty years ago that small counties, such as Mariposa, could not provide fully adequate Public Health service to their citizens without the assistance of the State, and

WHEREAS, the result was the creation of the “Local Public Health Services” Program wherein the State assumed a large portion for responsibility of subsidizing Public Health operations in Counties of population less than 40,000, and

WHEREAS, California law enacting this program states “The counties and the department shall work collectively to ensure that expenditures do not exceed the funds available for the program in any fiscal year”, and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Health Services is now issuing an ultimatum to the small counties to either significantly increase the amount of money that the counties pay to the State for these services or lose the services of the program altogether, and

WHEREAS, the amount of costs the State is claiming over and above actual costs for staff provided to the counties is well in excess of reasonable overhead, and exceeds Mariposa County’s Health Realignment funds available for this purpose, and

WHEREAS, the Supervisors of the County of Mariposa are unwilling to allow the actions of the Department of Health Services to imperil the health of the citizens of Mariposa County, and

WHEREAS, the arbitrary deadline by the State for making this decision is exceedingly short – May 31, 2005,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Supervisors of the County of Mariposa will continue the cooperative, mutually beneficial, contract with the Department of Health Services at the same reimbursement level as Fiscal Year 2004-2005 through December 31st 2005, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Supervisors directs the County Health Officer to continue to work collectively with the State to find a fair and equitable resolution of the crisis precipitated by the Department of Health Services in a manner that does not imperil the Public Health of the citizens of Mariposa.
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mariposa, California, this 10th day of May 2005, by the following vote:

AYES: STETSON, TURPIN, BIBBY, FRITZ, PICKARD
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAINED: NONE

BOB PICKARD, Chairman

ATTEST:

MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

THOMAS P. GUARINO, County Counsel
MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

TO: CHARLES MOSHER, Health Officer

FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
BY: RACHEL PETTY, Clerk to the Board

SUBJECT: IMPENDING DEADLINE FOR A DECISION RELATIVE TO CONTINUING A CONTRACT WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR STATE PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF USING HEALTH REALIGNMENT FUNDS

Resolution No. 05-191

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ADOPTED THIS Order on May 10, 2005

ACTION AND VOTE:

B) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding an Impending Deadline for a Decision Relative to Continuing to Contract with the State Department of Health Services for State Public Health Staff using Health Realignment Funds

BOARD ACTION: Dr. Mosher introduced the item and advised that he attended a meeting last Friday in Sacramento regarding the program. He further advised there is twenty-six percent overhead for administration and lab service costs for the program. He stated that small counties have remained united and have requested an additional fifty percent cut in costs. Discussion is still on-going and the state is currently looking for ways to extend the deadline and made additional cuts. (M) Turpin, (S) Fritz, Res. 05-191 was adopted approving the contract with Local Public Health Services for Fiscal Year 2005-2006/Ayes: Unanimous.

cc: Ken Hawkins, Auditor
    File
DEPARTMENT: HEALTH

BY: C. B. MOSHER, MD, MPH, H.O.  
PHONE: 966-3689

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Recommend resolution authorizing chair to sign Agreement with Department of Health Services for Local Public Health Services in the amount of $352,764 for current Fiscal Year.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Health Officer previously discussed negotiations with the State on this contract on 05/10/2005 and 06/21/2005.

The Health Officer also explored the cost-benefit ratio of abandoning the contract and converting State personnel to County employees. This current contract is favorable to the County, given prior proposals by the State. One of the two PHN positions is vacant, with no plans to fill it, reducing the total cost of the contract by that amount.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Loss of critical Public Health Staff (Public Health Nurse and two REHS's), laboratory services, and consultant services.

Financial Impact? (X) Yes ( ) No  
Current FY Cost: $

Budgeted In Current FY? (X) Yes ( ) No ( ) Partially Funded

Amount in Budget: $403,750

Additional Funding Needed: $0

Source:

Internal Transfer

Unanticipated Revenue

Transfer Between Funds

Contingency

( ) General ( ) Other

List Attachments, number pages consecutively

CLERK’S USE ONLY:

Res. No. ___-__-___  Ord. No. ___

Vote - Ayes: ___  Noes: ___

Approved

( ) Minute Order Attached  ( ) No Action Necessary

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

Date: ___

Attest: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
County of Mariposa, State of California

By: ___

Deputy

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

Requested Action Recommended  No Opinion

Comments:

CAO: ___

Revised Dec. 2002