



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

**Public Health**

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# ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

36 September 18, 2012

*Sachi A. Hamai*  
SACHI A. HAMAI  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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September 18, 2012

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT AND IMPLEMENT A FORTHCOMING NOTICE  
OF AWARD AND FUTURE AWARDS AND/OR AMENDMENTS FROM THE CENTERS FOR  
DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION FOR THE BIOSENSE 2.0 SURVEILLANCE CAPACITY  
PROJECT  
FOR THE ESTIMATED PERIOD OF AUGUST 1, 2012 THROUGH JULY 31, 2015, AND APPROVE  
TWO NEW POSITIONS (ALL SUPERVISORAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

Provide authorization to accept and implement a forthcoming award and future awards and/or amendments from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and approve two new positions, subject to allocation, to support the BioSense 2.0 Surveillance Capacity Project.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

1. Delegate authority to the Director of the Department of Public Health (DPH), or this designee, to accept and implement a forthcoming Notice of Award (NA) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the estimated term of August 1, 2012 through July 31, 2013, at an estimated amount of \$300,000, to support the BioSense 2.0 Surveillance Capacity Project (BSCP), subject to review and approval by County Counsel, and notification to your Board and the Chief Executive Office (CEO).
2. Delegate authority to the Director of DPH, or his designee, to accept future awards and/or amendments from the CDC that are consistent with the requirements of the NA referenced above that extend the term for two additional years at amounts to be determined by the CDC, estimated not to exceed \$300,000 per term; reflect non-material and/or ministerial revisions to the NA's terms and conditions; allow for the rollover of unspent funds and/or

redirection of funds; adjust the term of the NA through January 31, 2016; and/or provide an increase or decrease in funding up to 25 percent above or below each term's annual base amount, subject to review and approval by County Counsel, and notification to your Board and the CEO.

3. Approve two new full time equivalent (FTE) positions in excess of that which is provided for in DPH's staffing ordinance pursuant to Section 6.06.20 of the County Code, and subject to allocation by the CEO. These positions are 100 percent funded by the forthcoming CDC award.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approval of Recommendation 1 will allow DPH to accept funds from the CDC to support the BSCP which will implement and evaluate a data connection upgrade to DPH's current syndromic surveillance system, BioSense 2.0., in an effort to create a nationwide syndromic surveillance system. BioSense 2.0 will enable DPH and other state and local health departments to perform syndromic surveillance within their own jurisdiction and share the resulting data with other public health entities. Through simple and jurisdiction-controlled data sharing options, BioSense 2.0 will help create regional and nationwide situational awareness, and support national, state, and local public health responses to disease outbreaks.

Approval of Recommendation 2 will allow DPH to accept future awards and/or amendments that are consistent with the requirements of the forthcoming NA to extend and/or adjust the term of the award; reflect non material revisions to terms and conditions; rollover unspent funds and/or redirect funds; and/or provide an increase or decrease in funding up to 25 percent above or below each terms' annual base amount. This recommended action will enable DPH to accept awards and/or amendments that adjust the project period up to six months beyond the original term, in those instances where there has been an unanticipated extension of the term to allow additional time to complete services and utilize grant funding. This authority is being requested to enhance DPH's efforts to expeditiously maximize grant review, consistent with Board Policy 4.070: Full Utilization of Grant Funds.

Recommendation 3 will authorize DPH to fill two positions to provide programmatic and administrative support for BSCP services and activities. The positions are: one Epidemiology Analyst and one Senior Information System Analyst (SISA). The EA will coordinate the legal assessment of BSCP and obtain approval of all legal documents from County Counsel. In addition, this position will submit applications and obtain Institutional Review Board (IRB) approvals as well as authorization from your Board. The EA will also evaluate BioSense 2.0 to determine if it can execute complex queries. The SISA will conduct a full information technology (IT) security assessment of BSCP with the Chief Information Security Officer and evaluate the need for development and execution of a Business Associates Agreement with the Association of State and Territorial Officers (ASTHO). Should use of BioSense 2.0 be approved, based upon evaluation results, the positions will work together to connect hospitals directly to a third party cloud environment for data transfer and storage.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The recommended actions support Goal 3, Integrated Services Delivery, of the County's Strategic Plan.

**FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

DPH will accept a forthcoming CDC NA for the estimated term of August 1, 2012 through July 31, 2013, at an estimated amount of \$300,000. The grant project term is estimated to be three years at annual amounts to be determined by CDC, estimated not to exceed \$300,000 per term. Funds will be used to support BSCP personnel and operating costs.

There is no net County cost associated with these actions. Funds are included in fiscal year (FY) 2012-13 Adopted Budget and will be included in future FYs, as necessary.

**FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

In May 2012, the CDC released Funding Opportunity Announcement Number CDC-RFA-OE12-1202 for the BioSense 2.0 surveillance project. On June 25, 2012, DPH submitted an application in response to the funding announcement and is anticipating receipt of an award with an estimated effective date of August 1, 2012.

On June 27, 2012, DPH notified your Board that it was exercising delegated authority to accept an award from the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, for the period of June 26, 2012 through December 31, 2012, in the amount of \$21,000, to introduce the data connection upgrade, BioSense 2.0, to local syndromic-surveillance participating hospitals.

Due to the complexity of this project, and DPH's past experience with data use agreements, a full year of evaluation will be needed to assess DPH's syndromic surveillance system and engage in negotiations with key stakeholders. Evaluations will include, but are not limited to: 1) an investigation of the need for a Business Associates Agreement between DPH and ASTHO; 2) an IT security assessment of the safety of data transfers, storage, and usage; and 3) an analysis of the legal ramifications of data sharing and storage, possible breaches in security, and the consequences of security violations. County Counsel will review all aspects of the project and DPH Institutional Review Board approval will be obtained.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

Approval of the recommended actions will allow DPH to accept funds from the CDC to implement and evaluate utilization of a syndromic surveillance system that will enhance regional and nationwide situational awareness and support national, state, and local public health responses to disease outbreaks.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

9/18/2012

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan E. Fielding". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

JONATHAN E. FIELDING, M.D., M.P.H.

Director and Health Officer

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BL#2353

c: c: Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors