

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

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To: Board of Supervisors
From: Birgitta Corsello, County Administrator
Date: October 31, 2011
Subject: Biweekly Update of Significant Issues

1. County Administrator's Update on Contracts

The County Administrator has signed the following contracts of significance since the last Significant Issues update:

- Public Health, a contract with Leah Carlon (effective October 3, 2011 to June 30, 2012) to manage Emergency Services Bureau data and program performance, conduct surveillance for and respond to Public Health emergencies and outbreaks, \$37,140.
- Sheriff's Office, a contract with Sean Alexander Marine Services (effective September 19, 2011 to April 30, 2012) to provide abatement of abandoned watercraft, \$40,175.

2. State Water Board Releases Draft Onsite Sewage Treatment System Policy

The State Water Resources Control Board released a draft policy on the siting, design, operation and maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) and is accepting public comments through noon on November 14, 2011. The policy, intended to meet the requirements of AB 885 requiring adoption of statewide OWTS standards, is available at www.waterboards.ca.gov.

The draft policy creates five permitting and management tiers based on the level of risk posed by existing, replaced or new OWTS, and their proximity to water bodies potentially impaired by use of OWTS. Solano County will be allowed to submit its existing local OWTS regulations for approval by the state as part of a Local Agency Management Program. This local program will also include a countywide water quality monitoring plan to determine the effectiveness of the local standards in protecting water quality. Yearly and triennial reporting by the department to the state will also be required.

Most property owners should not be substantially affected by the proposed policy. However the policy may impact some property owners located in the primary area of the Suisun Marsh since this area is a sensitive habitat that is currently listed as impaired. The new policy will require property owners in the primary area of the Suisun Marsh to upgrade any existing OWTS that uses a conventional leaching system to an enhanced treatment device within seven years, unless otherwise determined by the State.

- Contact: Terry Schmidtbauer, Environmental Health Manager, Resource Management, 784-3308

3. Kidder Avenue Property Closed Escrow

On September 13, 2011, the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution authorizing the sale of the County-owned surplus real property located at 1935 and 1945 Kidder Avenue in Fairfield to the Northbay Islamic Association for \$150,000. The sale was a result of a public bid process, which generated \$149,276 in one-time revenue for the County General Fund. The transaction closed escrow on October 5, 2011.

- Contact: Keith Hanson, Real Estate Manager, General Services, 784-7906

4. Family Health Services Introduces the First Phase of Electronic Health Records System

Solano County Family Health Services introduced the first phase of its Electronic Health Records, NextGen Electronic Practice Management System, on October 3, 2011 in its clinic sites. The new system centralizes client scheduling, billing, collections, and other business processes. The second and final phase of the project will be introduced later this year and in spring 2012. Ultimately, the Electronic Health Record system will replace paper client charts. The mission of Family Health Services is to provide comprehensive primary medical and dental care and mental health services. Electronic Health Records will improve efficiency of clinic operations and positions Family Health Services to meet industry standards and federal requirements.

- Contact: Dr. Bela Matyas, Health Officer/Deputy Director Health and Social Services, 784-8600

5. County Working With State on Implementation Plan for Community First Choice Option

States currently have an option to provide personal care services through their Medicaid plans (In-Home Supportive Services). As a result of The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, states can now choose the Community First Choice Option to provide home and community-based services under Medicaid Section 1915(k). This option allows states to open eligibility to people at higher incomes and to offer additional services, which could pave the way for broader expansions of home and community-based services covered by Medicaid. It is anticipated this option will increase the demand for attendant care and support services. States that elect this option will receive a six percentage-point increase in their Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) matching payments for costs associated with the program, but it is not yet known what increase counties would receive.

Required services under the Community First Choice Option include:

- Assistance with Activities of Daily Living (ADLs), e.g. eating, toileting, bathing
- Assistance with Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs), e.g. meal planning and preparation; performing essential household chores
- Assistance with health-related tasks, e.g. hands-on assistance, cueing, and supervision
- Acquisition and maintenance of skills for an individual to complete the above activities.
- Back-up systems for continuity of care and support, e.g. personal emergency systems
- Voluntary training on hiring, managing and dismissing attendants.

Solano County Status: The state has not yet developed its implementation plan for this program; however, the California Departments of Social Services and Health Care Services are working

together to formulate an implementation plan. Counties are awaiting instructions from the Department of Social Services as to how this program will be implemented and the role and responsibilities of counties in administering this program. Discussions have included the possibility of bypassing county IHSS programs and funding community-based organizations directly. Although the funding was available October 1, 2011 to the State, no allocations will be made until after the implementation plan is determined.

- Contact: Natasha Hamilton, Older and Disabled Adult Services, Health and Social Services, 784-8207

6. First 5 Solano Strategic Plan Update and 2012-2015 Funding Cycle

Proposition 10 statues require that First 5 commissions regularly review, and periodically update, their strategic plans. The First 5 Solano Commission has been working over the past 14 months to update their strategic plan, which was last updated in 2007. In conjunction with this process, the Commission recently made important decisions regarding future funding. This item outlines those decisions and the timeline/activities that will take place over the next few months to implement a new funding cycle.

Commissioners spent many hours reviewing extensive data and research related to community indicators and funded program performance. They successfully sought and generated extensive community input through surveys, community partner visits and in public meetings to guide them in this challenging work. As the new strategic framework took shape, the Commission turned their efforts toward developing a funding plan. This funding plan, featuring a three-year funding cycle (2012-2015), was approved on October 22, 2011.

Note that funding decisions have been greatly impacted by the requirements of AB 99, which calls for transfer of \$950 million (about \$8.8 million in Solano, which represents most of the Commission's remaining reserves) from county First 5 Commissions to the state. First 5 Solano/Solano County is in litigation regarding the legality of AB 99; nevertheless, the Commission was forced to hold this \$8.8 million in abeyance as the next funding cycle was developed. Solano Commissioners were thoughtful, intentional and inclusive in going about completing this most difficult task of establishing a funding plan with unavoidable reductions.

By its actions taken on October 22, the Commission ensured a reduced level of core funding for its strategic framework, along with supplemental funding for a transition period that exhausts all available reserves (about \$2.2 million) by the end of FY2014/15. Primary elements of the funding plan include:

- Funding for some strategies (including early mental developmental health, children's health coverage and wraparound child care) is maintained at the 2012 levels;
- Funding for other strategies (including prenatal services, child care professional development and family support services) is reduced;
- Parent education and collaboration/coordination funds will be offered separately as a consolidated activity across the strategic framework;
- Early learning funding is substantially reduced;
- First 5 staffing and operations are reduced;
- The Commission's Discretionary Fund is maintained; and
- Funding is set aside for the First 5 Futures initiative

Staff is working on the specific numbers for each result area, and will be making this information available to the Commission and the public as soon as possible, but no later than the next Commission meeting on December 6, 2012. At that meeting, the Commission will consider adoption of its 2012 Strategic Plan Update and approve specific amounts of reduced funding in the result areas related to prenatal services, child care professional development, and family support services. Staff will also bring proposals for soliciting grantees and vendors for the next funding cycle.

The tentative timeline for implementing the 2012-2015 funding cycle is as follows:

January 2012:	Issue solicitations for funding
February 2012:	Mandatory bidder's conferences
April 2012:	Awards of funding
April – June 2012:	Contract negotiations/finalization
June 2012:	Submission of contracts to Board of Supervisors
July 2012:	New funding cycle and services begin

- Contact: Christina Arrostuto, Executive Director, First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission, 784-1340