



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Health System



Date: May 25, 2016
Board Meeting Date: June 21, 2016
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Louise Rogers, Chief, Health System
Cassius Lockett, Director, Public Health, Policy and Planning

Subject: Public Health, Policy and Planning Fee Schedule Update

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution updating the Public Health, Policy and Planning Fee Schedule, effective July 1, 2016.

BACKGROUND:

The San Mateo County Public Health, Policy and Planning Fee Schedule (Fee Schedule) includes fees charged by the Public Health Laboratory (PHL), the Public Health Clinics, and Vital Statistics. Fee-based services include: clinical and environmental testing, vaccines, medical services, birth and death certificates, and Medical Marijuana identification cards.

On April 28, 2015, your Board approved the Public Health, Policy and Planning's (PHPP) request to adopt the updated Fee Schedule effective July 1, 2015.

The fees charged are determined by considering the cost of providing services and the need to prevent fees from becoming a barrier to testing for communicable diseases. Some fees may be waived for persons determined to be at risk for transmitting a communicable disease to others.

DISCUSSION:

The Fee Schedule is updated annually to add fees for new services, eliminate fees that are no longer necessary, and align fees with changing costs. A cost-based methodology is used for transparency and to help PHPP determine the financial viability of services. The fees do not exceed the cost of providing the product or the service of enforcing the regulation for which the fees are levied. Based on historical volumes, fees charged by PHL, the Public Health Clinics and Vital Statistics for FY 2016-17 are projected to be at or below total expenditures.

The Health Clinic fees are largely determined by historical benchmarking, although some immunization fees are based on materials provided by external agencies. In addition, PHL fees are calculated by allocating annual lab expenditures based on staff time to complete each test, the price of test kits, the category of test for which supplies are used, and the quantities for each test. Individual tests of public health importance may be discounted by the health officer or lab director. Finally, the Vital Statistics fees are mandated by the California Department of Public Health, with some portion going to the State Registrar and the remainder to PHPP's Vital Statistics program.

Based on historical volumes, the total fees projected to go to the PHPP programs mentioned above for FY 2016-2017 are at or below total expenditures.

PHPP asks your Board to authorize the Chief of the Health System or designee to make changes to PHPP's Fee Schedule to replace tests for diseases already included on the approved Fee Schedule with an equivalent test, as long as the new test fee is no more than 10% greater the current test fee; and to add tests that provide a greater level of clinical information than current tests, as long as these fees are not more than 10% greater than the highest fee in that category (e.g. Laboratory Fees, Respiratory Disease Tests, etc.).

The resolution has been reviewed and approved by County Counsel as to form.

Approval of this resolution contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Healthy Community by ensuring that critical public health testing, clinical services, and Vital Statistics' records are provided to residents of San Mateo County. The number of PHL tests completed on behalf of the public is a measure of the PHL's value to the community. It is anticipated that 54,100 PHL tests will be completed on behalf of the public.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE(S):

Measure	FY 2015-16 Estimated	FY 2016-17 Projected
Number of Public Health Laboratory tests completed on behalf of the public.	53,916	54,100

FISCAL IMPACT:

The changes to the PHPP fees are expected to generate an additional \$205,779 in revenue in FY 2016-17 to offset cost increases. These funds have been included in the PHPP FY 2016-17 Recommended Budget. There is no Net County Cost associated with the approval of this fee schedule.