



To: Bay Area UASI Approval Authority

From: Carl Hess, Medical Liaison Officer, Northern California Regional Intelligence Center (NCRIC)

Date: March 14, 2019

Re: Item 10: NCRIC Medical Liaison Officer – Pilot Project Update

Staff Recommendation:

No recommendation

Action or Discussion Items:

Discussion, Possible Action

Background:

The Medical Liaison Officer (MLO) is a position held at many Fusion Centers around the country. In 2017, the Bay Area decided to fund the MLO position at the NCRIC (Northern California Regional Information Center) as a pilot project. The position was part time (20 hours per week) with a scope of work to include data sharing between law enforcement and public health and relationship building between the NCRIC and public health, healthcare.

Discussion:

The pilot project for the MLO has been in progress for ten months. Key activities performed by the contractor includes exercise observation and evaluation, BioWatch membership, InfraGard membership and attendance at regional and state public health meetings. Through this project, a key gap in information sharing and relationship building was discovered - the opioid statistics available at the state level are under-reporting the extent of drug related injuries and death. Public Health is currently trying to curb demand while law enforcement is trying to stop supply. Public Health has access to medical records and pre-hospital activity that indicates drug overdoses and fatalities. Law enforcement, specifically DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) has created a software program to track first responder applications of Naloxone (a medication used to counter the effects of opioid overdoses). The coroner/medical examiner and toxicology reports add to the data, however the data sets reside in separate formats and need to be manually combined to create an overdose map showing mortality statistics.

Public Health/healthcare data sources include: FirstWatch (ambulance/hospital activity), toxicology reports, coroner reports, ICD10 codes, and death certificates.

Law enforcement data sources include: Universal Crime Reports, county crime laboratories, and DEA regional laboratory.

Next Steps:

The fatality information for San Mateo County and Marin County has been loaded into the HIDTA's (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) program, OD MAP. The contractor is in the process of loading San Francisco data. Meetings are scheduled in late March to collect the data from Alameda County. Santa Clara County is on the calendar for May.

Epidemiologists for Marin and San Mateo are working with their crime labs, coroner and hospitals to collect and analyze data; the contractor is arranging for this information to be shared at the regional level.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has received grant money from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to standardize the testing and reporting of drug related fatalities. The contractor has made contact with CDPH to coordinate the state work with local work already underway.