



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

AGENDA ITEM

DRAFT

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Second District

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DATE: November 13, 2018

XX

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT

ELIMINATE HEPATITIS C COUNTY INITIATIVE (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) remains a significant public health issue that affects many populations despite advancements in testing and treatment. Since 2000, more than 2,500 cases per year of chronic HCV have been reported in San Diego County. From 2011 to 2016, HCV was listed as an underlying cause of death annually in at least 70-100 deaths of San Diego County residents.

In recent years, public health organizations at all levels have increasingly focused on reducing or eliminating HCV as a public health threat. In 2016, the World Health Organization issued a proposal to eliminate Hepatitis C by 2030, specifically reducing new cases of chronic HCV by 80% by 2030. In 2017, United States Department of Health and Human Services published the National Viral Hepatitis Action Plan, which provides a framework for eliminating HCV in the U.S. Effective July 1, 2018, California Department of Health Care Services issued a new Treatment Policy for the Management of Chronic Hepatitis C, which will result in more individuals diagnosed with HCV receiving treatment immediately.

In conjunction with these efforts and to address the specific needs of San Diego County residents, today's action requests authorization to participate in a one-year planning process with community partners to develop a roadmap that will be known as the *Eliminate Hepatitis C San Diego County Initiative*. The primary goals of the Initiative are to decrease the incidence of new cases of chronic HCV by 80% and reduce HCV mortality by 65% in San Diego County by 2030.

If approved, today's action would formally establish the *Eliminate Hepatitis C San Diego County Initiative*. This item supports the Building Better Health and Living Safely components of the *Live Well San Diego* vision, by bolstering local efforts that eliminate a curable disease to improve longevity and quality of life.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

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CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to develop and launch the *Eliminate Hepatitis C San Diego County Initiative*, a public-private partnership, using a collective impact approach, to eliminate HCV as a public health threat in San Diego.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to report back to the Board in approximately 12 months with recommendations for the *Eliminate Hepatitis C San Diego County Initiative*.
3. Authorize the Agency Director, Healthy and Human Services Agency, to pursue future funding opportunities related to Hepatitis C elimination efforts.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommendations. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT

The Health Services Advisory Board voted to approve this action at its meeting on November 6, 2018.

BACKGROUND

In the United States (U.S.), chronic Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection is a leading cause of liver disease and liver transplants. As of 2016, more than 3.5 million Americans were estimated to be infected with chronic HCV, with at least 18,153 deaths related to HCV. HCV is transmitted through infected body fluids. The most common way people get infected is by sharing needles to inject drugs. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends HCV testing for all adults born between 1945 and 1965, people who use intravenous drugs, persons living with HIV, and recipients of blood transfusions or organ transplants prior to 1992. The majority of HCV infections become chronic, leading to long-term negative outcomes, including cirrhosis, liver failure, hepatocellular cancer, and possibly death.

A highly effective cure for HCV exists in the form of an oral medication with few side effects. The development of this cure, coupled with prevention efforts, led the CDC and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to determine that it is possible to eliminate HCV as a public health threat in the U.S. In 2016, the World Health Organization proposed to eliminate Hepatitis C by 2030, specifically reducing new cases of chronic HCV by 80% by 2030. In 2017, HHS published the National Viral Hepatitis Action Plan, which provides a framework for eliminating HCV in the U.S.

Expanding upon this proposal, effective July 1, 2018, California Department of Health Care Services issued a new policy recommending treatment for all individuals with chronic HCV infection, except those with a short life expectancy who would not benefit from HCV therapy. As a result, more individuals diagnosed with HCV can receive treatment immediately. As more

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individuals with HCV are identified and referred for treatment, spread of the disease will be reduced and bring the community closer to the larger goal of elimination.

In San Diego, HCV remains a significant public health issue as more than 2,500 cases per year of chronic HCV have been reported in San Diego County since 2000. Chronic HCV cases in San Diego County affect men and women throughout the region, with increasing frequency as they age. Sixty three percent of chronic HCV cases reported in San Diego County occur in adults age 45 and older. From 2011 to 2016, chronic HCV was listed as an underlying cause of death for at least 70-100 deaths of San Diego County residents.

To address this significant public health issue in a coordinated manner and yield collective impact, today's action seeks authorization to participate in a one-year planning process with community partners to develop a roadmap that will be known as the *Eliminate Hepatitis C San Diego County Initiative*. The roadmap will be developed through a public-private partnership, utilizing a collective impact approach with a common agenda and centralized infrastructure, to develop a three- to five-year plan for eliminating HCV as a public health threat in the county. The goals are to achieve an 80% decrease in new cases of chronic HCV and a 65% reduction in HCV mortality in San Diego County by 2030. An additional goal is to quickly identify and refer for treatment individuals who become infected with HCV to prevent the spread of disease.

The one-year planning process will coordinate efforts from stakeholder groups to address local HCV elimination. This will be facilitated by the American Liver Foundation, Pacific Coast Division, convening stakeholders across healthcare, government, and consumer sectors to discuss topics, such as research and surveillance; access, testing, and treatment; and consumer education and awareness. Input from these meetings will influence the development of a planning document that will provide an overview of the status of HCV elimination efforts and identify high-risk communities.

By embarking on the *Eliminate Hepatitis C San Diego County Initiative*, San Diego County will join other jurisdictions, including New York City, the Cherokee Nation, San Francisco, and Australia, in seeking to eliminate HCV as a public health threat. Most of the initiatives that have been implemented by other jurisdictions to date are following World Health Organization HCV elimination goals to achieve an 80% reduction in new cases and 65% decrease in mortality as a result of HCV by 2030. The San Diego initiative will build upon the existing strategic plans developed by other jurisdictions to model goals and objectives based on demonstrated best practices and successes but tailored to fit the unique needs of the San Diego region. The *Eliminate Hepatitis C San Diego County Initiative* supports the *Live Well San Diego* vision by increasing life expectancy and quality of life.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN

Today's proposed action supports the Building Better Health and Living Safely initiatives in the County of San Diego's 2018-2023 Strategic Plan as well as the *Live Well San Diego* indicators of life expectancy and quality of life by pursuing policy and environmental changes to eliminate the Hepatitis C public health threat in San Diego County.

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Respectfully submitted,

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HELEN N. ROBBINS-MEYER
Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT(S)

N/A

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: ☐ Yes ☒ No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED

☐ Yes ☒ No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:

N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:

N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:

N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:

N/A

**ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION
NUMBER(S):**

N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Health and Human Services Agency

OTHER CONCURRENCE(S):

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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