



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: March 1, 2016

25

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: GETTING TO ZERO INITIATIVE (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Overview

About 20,000 people in San Diego County are currently living with HIV/AIDS. It is estimated that approximately 2,300 of these individuals are not even aware of their HIV status, and another nearly 6,400 who are living with HIV/AIDS, and who are aware of their status, are not receiving HIV primary care.

Because of barriers to information or access to care, 44 percent of the people affected by HIV/AIDS in our county are not utilizing or benefiting from lifesaving treatments proven to suppress progression and prevent the spread of this deadly disease. We can, and will do more to reach these individuals and improve our system of care through a new initiative, "Getting to Zero," that we are asking you to support with this board action.

In 2011, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identified HIV prevention as a winnable battle using tools that already exist to dramatically reduce new infection. Significant advances in medical treatments can ensure that people with HIV live longer and healthier lives.

On October 31, 2014, Supervisors Ron Roberts and Dave Roberts issued a memo to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Helen Robbins-Meyer, requesting the formation of an ad hoc committee to assess the current status of HIV disease in San Diego County and develop recommendations for eradicating this epidemic in the foreseeable future. From that memo, the Ad Hoc Task Force to Address Education, Prevention, Testing and Treatment (Ad Hoc Task Force) was formed. In a report to the Board on September 28, 2015 (Attachment A), the committee issued key findings and recommendations.

Today's request would formally establish the "Getting to Zero" initiative to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic in San Diego County. Approval of the recommendations will establish an implementation plan to carry out the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Task Force, along with a comprehensive policy to align programs and partners throughout the County of San Diego in an effort to eradicate the disease.

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Recommendation(s)

CHAIRMAN RON ROBERTS AND SUPERVISOR DAVE ROBERTS

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare an implementation plan in response to the recommendations from the Ad Hoc Task Force to Address HIV Education, Prevention, Testing and Treatment (Ad Hoc Task Force).
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare policy recommendations that will focus the County of San Diego, its programs, and partners on ending the HIV epidemic in the foreseeable future via the Getting to Zero initiative.
3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare an amendment to Board of Supervisors Legislative Policy: Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection/AIDS (M-50) in accordance with findings of the Ad Hoc Task Force.
4. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to report back to the Board on the above three recommendations within 120 days.

Fiscal Impact

N/A

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

July 9, 2015, Priority Setting Committee of the HIV Health Services Planning Council

Background

About 20,000 people in San Diego County are currently living with HIV/AIDS. It is estimated that approximately 2,300 of these individuals are not even aware of their HIV status, and another nearly 6,400 who are living with HIV/AIDS, and who are aware of their status, are not receiving HIV primary care.

In 2011, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identified HIV prevention as a winnable battle, meaning that with additional effort and support for evidence-based, cost-effective strategies, we could make a significant positive impact on overall public health. The tools to dramatically reduce the number of new HIV infections already exist, and there have been significant advances in medical treatments that can ensure that people with HIV can live longer and healthier lives. These tools and treatments are not fully implemented locally, nor are they strategically coordinated with the goal of ending the epidemic. We can, and will do more to reach these individuals and improve our system of care through a new initiative, "Getting to Zero," that we are asking you to support with this board action.

In 2014, Supervisors Ron Roberts and Dave Roberts, along with staff from the Office of San Diego City Council President Todd Gloria, met with a group of concerned HIV/AIDS service providers who shared that despite the medical advancements to address the HIV epidemic, many individuals who are infected are unaware of their status, and many individuals who are aware of

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their status are not accessing life-saving HIV care. While HIV testing, care and medicines are readily available in our county, these services are not being accessed by all HIV positive individuals due to barriers to care and lack of information.

Issues that were raised included: Locating and accessing HIV testing sites and medical care and treatment, including operating hours, geographic location and type of sites available; Lack of broad awareness about, and availability of, medication regimens that can prevent HIV infection; Availability of support services critical to keeping individuals in care, such as medical case management, mental health and psychiatric services, substance abuse treatment, and transportation; Disparities in testing and medical care for Latino, African-American, low-income, youth, adults over the age of 50, drug-using and female populations; Lack of visibility and knowledge by the general public regarding HIV and the county's plans to help eradicate the disease.

On October 31, 2014, Supervisors Ron Roberts and Dave Roberts issued a memo to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Helen Robbins-Meyer, requesting the formation of an ad hoc committee to assess the current status of HIV disease in San Diego County and develop recommendations for eradicating this epidemic in the foreseeable future. From that memo, the Ad Hoc Task Force to Address Education, Prevention, Testing and Treatment (Ad Hoc Task Force) was formed. Membership included members of the HIV Health Services Planning Council representing countywide providers of service, advocates, consumers, and County staff from the HIV, STD and Hepatitis Branch and the HIV/AIDS Epidemiology Unit of Public Health Services.

The Ad Hoc Task Force met nine times between December 2014 and July 2015 to review local epidemiological data; national guidelines and recommendations; research regarding the use of HIV-drugs to prevent HIV infection in those who are HIV-negative; past and current local efforts to address the epidemic; best practices for addressing HIV; and service delivery and funding allocations for HIV services administered by the HIV, STD and Hepatitis Branch of Public Health Services. Their key findings, along with six recommendations for achieving the goal of ending the epidemic ("Getting to Zero") are in a report sent to the Board on September 28, 2015 (Attachment A).

Today's request would formally establish the "Getting to Zero" initiative to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic in San Diego County. Approval of the recommendations will establish an implementation plan to carry out the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Task Force, along with a comprehensive policy to align programs and partners throughout County of San Diego in an effort to eradicate the disease.

Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan

N/A

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Respectfully submitted,

RON ROBERTS
Supervisor, Fourth District

DAVE ROBERTS
Supervisor, Third District

ATTACHMENT(S)

September 29, 2015, memo and recommendations from The Ad Hoc Task Force to Address HIV Education, Prevention, Testing and Treatment.

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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:
Board of Supervisors Legislative Policy: Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection/AIDS (M-50)

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:
N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:
N/A

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

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Supervisor Ron Roberts and Supervisor Dave Roberts

OTHER CONCURRENCES(S): N/A

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