AUTHORIZE A SINGLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT WITH SAN DIEGO HEALTH CONNECT FOR LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MULTISTATE ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD-BASED NETWORK FOR DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

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- The Multi-State EHR-Based Network for Disease Surveillance (MENDS) system provides timely estimates of the rates of chronic diseases and creates aggregate-level reporting for disease surveillance using population surveillance queries and visualization applications.

- Utilizing EHR data which reflect clinical results and patient diagnoses, substantially increases our ability to estimate neighborhood and community prevalence and increases our ability to improve the health of our residents in underserved communities.

USES FOR MENDS

Potential Use Cases for MENDS Data Products
To Improve the Health of the Population

Monitor Trends	Inform Policy	Plan Programs	Evaluate Outcomes
• Track healthcare use (e.g., chronic disease screening), diagnoses, and disease comorbidities	• Estimate major risk factors like uncontrolled hypertension and hidden conditions like undiagnosed hypertension • Analyze racial/ ethnic and socioeconomic disparities	• Estimate size of population affected by a policy and/or program and likely related impact	• Identify high risk communities and subpopulations for intervention • Compare control and intervention ZIP codes

National Association of Chronic Disease Directors. How Mends Works. https://chronicdisease.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/How-MENDS-Works-September-2022.pdf

PROGRAMS THAT MENDS WOULD SUPPORT:

Chronic Disease and Health Equity

- Childhood Obesity Initiative
- CalFresh Healthy Living
- Tobacco Control Resource Program
- Tobacco Retail Licensing Program
- Diabetes Prevention Program

Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health

- Black Infant Health Program
- Perinatal Equity Initiative
- Perinatal Care Network

CDC-Funded Programs

- Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention
- Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH)
- Overdose Data to Action (OD2A)
- 2103 COVID-19 Health Disparities

MENDS IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING

- San Diego Health Connect (SDHC) operates the only Health Information Exchange serving San Diego and Imperial Counties sharing electronic patient health information and clinical data. SDHC makes this information available for a "Permitted Use," such as treatment, payment, operations, public health reporting and other lawful purposes.
- SDHC is the only entity in the San Diego region with the technology and expertise and existing data use agreements required to operate and continue development of a local Health Information Exchange and regional data aggregator.

Funding Source	Amount	Funding Period
COVID-19 Health Disparities grant funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	$300,000	Through May 30, 2024
MCFHS Realignment	$150,000	June 1, 2023 – June 1, 2028

MENDS SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION

Challenges

- Understanding the strengths and limitations of the MENDS data system
- Ensuring staff training and resources to meet program needs
- Validating data as SDHC upgrades partnering health systems to the new data repository model
- Limited funding available for expansion for new diseases/conditions of interest

Solutions

- Participate in the MENDS Governance Committee with the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD)
- Prioritize staff training and development
- Join the MENDS Learning Community to access training and resources
- Work with programs to integrate data from the MENDS system into planning and evaluation
- Look for opportunities to participate in prioritization of new algorithms for MENDS
- Seek additional funding through opportunities to leverage resources

RECOMMENDATION

1. In accordance with Board Policy A-87, Competitive Procurement, authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to enter into negotiations with San Diego Health Connect for the purpose of implementing the MENDS system for disease surveillance and to host and maintain and update said system; and subject to successful negotiations and determination of a fair and reasonable price, enter into a contract with San Diego Health Connect for an initial contract period through May 30, 2024 with five option years through June 1, 2028 and up to an additional six months, if necessary, subject to the approval of the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency.

2. Authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, or designee, to apply for additional funding opportunity announcements, if available, that would support future enhancements and continued maintenance of the Multi-State Electronic Health Record-Based Network for Disease Surveillance.

THANK YOU!

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