

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

906A



FROM: Community Health Agency Department of Health

SUBMITTAL DATE:
March 31, 2005

SUBJECT: Sexually Transmitted Diseases Awareness (STD)
Month, April 2005

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors proclaim April 2005 as STD Awareness Month and endorse the strategies in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) plan for elimination of syphilis in the United States and approve the attached proclamation.

BACKGROUND: California has experienced its fourth consecutive year of increased primary & secondary (P&S) syphilis cases. Locally in Riverside County, the number of infectious syphilis cases has risen from 19 in 2000 to 112 in 2004. Syphilis increases the risk of HIV transmission by three to four times. Therefore, the resurgence of syphilis requires that public and private health care providers, individual citizens and government agencies have an increased awareness of the seriousness of this disease. It is also important to address the ongoing problem with other sexually transmitted diseases such as Chlamydia, gonorrhea, and hepatitis B. Outreach and education emphasizing safer sex practices is essential to reduce the impact of the diseases on women of child bearing age.

The CDC's National Plan for Syphilis Elimination in the United States identified several key action steps that are essential to combat syphilis in the U.S.

BC:ab

Susan D. Harrington

(Continued)

Susan Harrington, Director of Public Health

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|-----------------------|-------------------------------|------|-------------------------|-------|
| FINANCIAL DATA | Current F.Y. Total Cost: | \$ 0 | In Current Year Budget: | 04/05 |
| | Current F.Y. Net County Cost: | \$ 0 | Budget Adjustment: | 0 |
| | Annual Net County Cost: | \$ 0 | For Fiscal Year: | 0 |

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| SOURCE OF FUNDS: | Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Requires 4/5 Vote | <input type="checkbox"/> |

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

County Executive Office Signature

Dan Martinez

- Dep't Recomm.: Consent
- Per Exec. Ofc.: Consent
- Policy
- Policy

Prev. Agn. Ref.:

District:

Agenda Number:

FROM: Community Health Agency

SUBJECT: Sexually Transmitted Diseases Awareness (STD) Month, April 2005

These include:

- 1) Enhancing health promotion;
- 2) Expanding clinical and laboratory services; and
- 3) Strengthening community involvement and partnerships.

These action steps represent effective strategies for addressing this public health threat in Riverside County. A Syphilis Elimination Task Force has been convened to engage community leaders, business owners, community based organizations, and the medical community in developing intervention strategies to curtail this serious epidemic.

**Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD)
Awareness Month
April 2005**

WHEREAS, syphilis, a disease that increases the risk of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) by three to four times, is on the rise in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Riverside County has experienced its fourth consecutive year of increased syphilis cases; and

WHEREAS, over 3,500 cases of Chlamydia are reported in Riverside County each year; and

WHEREAS, approximately 75% of Chlamydia cases are among teenage girls and young adult women; and

WHEREAS, a person infected with HIV may remain asymptomatic for many years and unknowingly infect others with the virus; and

WHEREAS, a vaccine exists for hepatitis B prevention, which is encouraged for individuals who are at increased risk of infection through sexual transmission; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has created a National Plan for Syphilis Elimination, which encourages the enhancing of health promotion and strengthening of government agencies and private organization's collaborations; and

WHEREAS, Riverside County has established a Syphilis Elimination Task Force comprised of public and private agencies working together to develop strategies for the control of syphilis in Riverside County; and

WHEREAS, prevention is the key to curtailing these diseases of epidemic proportions.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE KNOWN that the RIVERSIDE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS hereby proclaims April 2005 as STD Awareness Month, and endorses the action steps identified in the Center of Disease Control's National Plan and Prevention for Syphilis Elimination and encourages all citizens to learn ways to prevent such debilitating diseases.