



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: October 22, 2024

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

4/5 Vote Required

**Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, State of California,
Appointing Dr. Karen Smith to the Position of Interim Health Officer Effective October 28,
2024**

Whereas, the California Health and Safety Code Section 101000 requires that the Board of Supervisors appoint a Health Officer for the County; and

Whereas, the Board of Supervisors appoints the County Health Officer who reports to the Board through the Director of Health Services; and

Whereas, Dr. Tanya Phares, who was appointed County Health Officer on November 14, 2023, has notified the County of her resignation, effective October 28, 2024; and

Whereas, Dr. Karen Smith, has agreed to serve as the County's Interim Health Officer through a professional services agreement while the County recruits for a permanent Health Officer; and

Whereas, Dr. Smith is a highly qualified medical professional with local, national, and international experience in infection control and public health practice, policy development, and program implementation, and has functioned as the County's Interim Health Officer in 2023, prior to Dr. Phares' appointment; and

Whereas, Dr. Smith will provide medical expertise in response to emerging threats and issues, direct the clinical aspects of emergency response, and provide medical consultative advice to clinicians; and

Whereas, Dr. Smith will assume responsibility for critical departmental functions including the issuance of birth and death records, health and safety inspections of food facilities, and the oversight of medical practices and support Department efforts to improve community health in Sonoma County, and to ensure that Board of Supervisors' priorities are met.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, State of California hereby appoints Karen Smith, MD to the position of Interim Health Officer

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for the County of Sonoma effective October 28, 2024.

Supervisors:

Gorin: Coursey: Gore: Hopkins: Rabbitt:

Ayes: Noes: Absent: Abstain:

So Ordered.