



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 2021-0121, **Version:** 1

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**To:** Board of Supervisors of Sonoma County  
**Department or Agency Name(s):** Department of Health Services  
**Staff Name and Phone Number:** Kristen Vela, 565-6388  
**Vote Requirement:** Majority  
**Supervisory District(s):** Countywide

**Title:**

Sexual Assault Response Team - Memorandum of Understanding with Sonoma County Law Enforcement Agencies

**Recommended Action:**

Authorize the Director of Health Services, or designee, to execute a memorandum of understanding with Sonoma County Law Enforcement Agencies, establishing respective roles related to the County providing sexual assault forensic medical examinations as requested by law enforcement agencies and receiving payment for services, with an estimated fiscal year 2021-2022 amount of \$176,400 and a term that is automatically extended each fiscal year.

**Executive Summary:**

In February 2003 the Board of Supervisors authorized the Director of Health Services to implement a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) of forensic medical examiners, as requested by the Law Enforcement Chiefs Association. This team consists of specially trained medical examiners who conduct sexual assault exams on all adult and child victims of sexual assault in Sonoma County. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) exists between the County and law enforcement agencies within Sonoma County to fund exams as requested by a specific agency. This year, there were legislative changes specific to providing these examinations and the fees charged. These changes necessitated updating this MOU.

The term of the MOU begins when all parties have signed, and is automatically extended each fiscal year for an additional year, unless terminated or amended by County.

**Discussion:**

The Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) participates collaboratively amongst other members of the multidisciplinary team in Sonoma County made up of government and non-government agencies seeking to improve the quality, timeliness, and client service of sexual assault related medical examination services. In February 2003, the Board authorized the Director of Health Services to enter into an agreement with Sonoma County Law Enforcement Agencies, as requested by the Law Enforcement Chiefs Association, to establish respective roles related to the County providing sexual assault clinical services as requested by law enforcement agencies and receiving payment for services.

The Department of Health Services Public Health Division has a team of employees serving as Sexual Assault Examiners providing 24-hour/7-day on call services for adult and child victims of sexual assault or abuse. The

team provides a medical examination for the purpose of collecting, documenting, and assessing forensic evidence. Program costs include examination supplies, and labor expense for medical examiners “on call” and examination time, court testimony duties, and meetings with law enforcement and the district attorney’s office.

The Department receives reimbursement from law enforcement agencies for the cost of providing SART medical examinations. The MOU is between the Department of Health Services and the following Law Enforcement Agencies: Cloverdale Police Department, Cotati Police Department, Healdsburg Police Department, Petaluma Police Department, Rohnert Park Police Department, Santa Rosa Police Department, Santa Rosa Junior College Police Services, Sebastopol Police Department, Sheriff’s Office, and Sonoma State University Police Services. Due to recent changes within the Penal Code as it pertains to Sexual Assault exams, this MOU was updated and now being presented for approval.

**Prior Board Actions:**

On January 6, 2009 the Board authorized and approved SART budget fiscal adjustment.

On February 4, 2003 the Board authorized an agreement between Health Services and Law Enforcement for SART services.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>FY 20-21 Adopted</b>	<b>FY 21-22 Projected</b>	<b>FY 22-23 Projected</b>
Budgeted Expenses	176,400	176,400	176,400
Additional Appropriation Requested			
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>176,400</b>	<b>176,400</b>	<b>176,400</b>
<b>Funding Sources</b>			
General Fund/WA GF			
State/Federal			
Fees/Other	176,400	176,400	176,400
Use of Fund Balance			
Contingencies			
<b>Total Sources</b>	<b>176,400</b>	<b>176,400</b>	<b>176,400</b>

**Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts:**

The revised MOU allows for a higher rate of reimbursement for some exams and could add additional revenue provided by the law enforcement agencies going forward to help cover program and staffing costs.

<b>Staffing Impacts:</b>			
<b>Position Title (Payroll Classification)</b>	<b>Monthly Salary Range (A-I Step)</b>	<b>Additions (Number)</b>	<b>Deletions (Number)</b>

**Narrative Explanation of Staffing Impacts (If Required):**

N/A

**Attachments:**

Memorandum of Understanding with Sonoma County Law Enforcement Agencies

**Related Items “On File” with the Clerk of the Board:**

None