



AGENDA ITEM 26-35
DATE OF MEETING: September 9, 2026
ACTION: ☒

**APPROVE AND RATIFY MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH
RIVERSIDE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM - PUBLIC HEALTH
FOR SHARED STAFFING FROM JULY 1, 2026 – JUNE 30, 2029
MOU NO. HSARC-27-020 [\$957,581 – PROP 10 FUNDS]**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST

Approve and ratify a new MOU No. HSARC-27-020 with Riverside University Health System - Public Health (RUHS-PH) for an amount not to exceed \$957,581 for July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029. This MOU supports one (1.0) Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Epidemiologist and adds one (1.0) FTE Research Specialist II to strengthen evaluation, epidemiological analysis, data integration, reporting, and other data-informed system improvement activities.

BACKGROUND

The existing Epidemiologist position has provided vital support for program evaluation, performance monitoring, and data integration across key First 5 Riverside County initiatives, including HealthySteps, CalWORKs Home Visiting, and Family Resource Centers. This action formalizes and continues funding for these services, previously supported under MOU No. HSARC-25-007.

To maintain public health-informed analytics and strengthen interagency data partnerships, staff recommend establishing a new MOU to include both the Epidemiologist and add a Research Specialist II position. This action ensures continuity of essential analytical functions, shared data dashboards, and advances the county's prevention-focused infrastructure priorities.

The updated Scope of Work will add support for ongoing research and epidemiological analysis related to maternal and child health trends. Additionally, this continued investment in data capacity is directly aligned with the Commission's new Strategic Plan for 2027– 2030, strengthening evidence-driven decision-making and system coordination across the early childhood landscape.

The prior shared-staffing MOU expired June 30. First 5 wants to continue the Epidemiologist function and intentionally increase its analytical capacity by adding a

Research Specialist II. The new three-year interdepartmental MOU creates a dedicated data and evaluation team supporting Commission priorities and evaluation, with \$957,581 in capped personnel costs through June 2029. Services continued July 1 while the replacement agreement was finalized, so the Commission is being asked to approve and ratify the new agreement.

On July 09, 2025 (Action Item 25-27), the Commission approved First Amendment to Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) No. HSARC-25-007 with Riverside University Health System - Public Health (RUHS-PH) July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026, for an amount not to exceed \$481,565.

On July 10, 2024 (Action Item 24-25), the Commission approved the original Shared Staffing MOU with RUHS-PH July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026, for an amount not to exceed \$320,140.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

That the Commission:

1. Ratify and approve Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) No. HSARC-27-020 with Riverside University Health System - Public Health, for a total amount not to exceed \$957,581, effective July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029; and
2. Authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute the final MOU and subsequent administrative amendments, subject to County Counsel approval as to form, provided that such modifications do not increase the total amount above \$957,581 or materially expand the scope approved by the Commission, including budget reallocations within the approved amount and, if necessary, a no-cost extension of the project period.

BUDGET IMPACT

Adequate appropriation is included in the approved Fiscal Year 26/27 budget. Expenditures in subsequent fiscal years are contingent upon the availability of Proposition 10 funding and appropriation through the Commission's annual budget process.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE

Goal Area 4 – Countywide (92980)

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Commissioner Kimberly Saruwatari, Director, Public Health

ATTACHMENT

1. HSARC-27-020 A0 Riverside University Health System - Public Health Memorandum of Understanding