

County of Santa Clara

Office of the County Executive

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DATE: April 10, 2023

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey V. Smith, County Executive

FROM: Dr. Eureka Daye, Director of Custody Health and Behavioral Health Services

SUBJECT: Juvenile Hall BLL Screening Pilot

At the Board of Supervisors meeting March 14, 2023 (Item No. 19), Supervisor Chavez requested an off-agenda report describing how Custody Health Services (CHS) will gauge the pilot's success as well as measure the pilot's effectiveness.

Juvenile Hall Blood Lead Level (BLL) Screening Pilot - Update

Since the update at the March 14, 2023, Board of Supervisors meeting, CHS has completed the BLL program build; finalized the workflow development; assigned dedicated staff champions; created a novel electronic health record (HealthLink) interface for capturing and reporting data; created a standardized workflow for youth and family/guardian consent; provided in-service education and training to staff champions; and finalized its evaluation strategies and key performance indicators for the pilot's go-live the week of April 3, 2023.

BLL Screening Pilot – Project

The BLL pilot is an opt-in project for blood lead level (BLL) screening of detained youth, after family/guardian and youth education and consent. After blood sample collection, tests are processed at the Valley Medical Center laboratory. Based on existing CDC and Santa Clara County Public Health guidelines, elevated BLL levels will trigger additional interventions as appropriate and in alignment with current Public Health recommendations. This will include additional education for the youth and families, collaboration with the Santa Clara County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP), notification of key partners, serial blood testing as needed, and referrals to identified specialists, etc. In consultation with Public Health

and the Environmental Health program, site visits to the youth's home or other locations may be needed to investigate possible sources of lead exposure.

BLL Screening Pilot –Measures of Success/Effectiveness

BLL screening is recommended or required for children at much earlier ages, based on recent immigration to the United State, or if there is a risk of lead exposure. This BLL pilot project is being framed as an opportunity to check the BLL of justice-involved youth to assess their current risks of exposure and determine if additional evaluations or services are needed to support them and their family members' health. Should youth be identified with elevated levels, this will prompt recommendations for screening for household members, supporting community-based interventions and services. In this pilot phase, measures of success include levels of participation from youth and their families/guardians, numbers of completed screening tests, and collection of vital demographic data. In addition, for those with elevated levels, success will include appropriate follow-up with youth and family/guardians, referrals, and linkages to partners such as Public Health and community-based medical providers, and referrals or linkages to other resources (e.g., Behavioral Health Services Department, Santa Clara County Office of Education, Juvenile Probation collaboration, other resource support, etc.).

Regarding the pilot's effectiveness, blood tests will be consolidated within the context of key demographics. For example, most recent home address is being collected to create a "heat map" should abnormal results be found. The information collected will be utilized to create action steps like those listed as measures of success, accurately capturing the youth's information and results, sharing the information with the youth and their families/guardians and their community medical providers as well as providing the appropriate referrals for needed follow-up while in custody or upon discharge to the community. These include high-needs referrals and linkages to appropriate programs and providers. Iterative analysis of collected data points will inform enhanced youth/family/guardian, partner, and general project needs. Data analysis will include identification of trends or patterns such as potentially greater impact in certain neighborhoods, or among those with certain demographics (e.g., age, race, gender) or with certain conditions (e.g., medical or behavioral health diagnoses), among other variables.

Project Update:

In the first week since the go-live, some youth and family/guardians have already consented to screening and have had normal BLL testing. This is reassuring and we hope to see similar trends as this project continues.

cc: Chief Board Aides
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