



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: Feb. 2017)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 6/7/18
Agenda Item #: R.6
Est. Start Time: 10:50 a.m.
Date Submitted: 5/23/18

Agenda Title: **Approving a Sole Source Procurement Authorizing the County to Contract with OCHIN**

Requested

Meeting Date: June 7, 2018 **Time Needed:** 10 minutes

Department: Health **Division:** Integrated Clinical Services

Contact(s): Wendy Lear

Phone: 988-7511 **Ext.** 87511 **Email:** Wendy.r.lear@multco.us

Presenters: Wendy Lear

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

The Health Department requests an exemption from purchasing rules requiring a competitive procurement. This sole source procurement request specifically would allow the Health Department to contract with OCHIN, for information systems and system support. The request is being made under PCRB rule 47-0275 – Sole Source Procurements for goods and non-personal services over \$150,000.

2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer(s) this action affects and how it impacts the results.

The Health Department has participated in the OCHIN collaborative since its inception in October 1999. The purpose of OCHIN was to establish an organization to facilitate the integration of health information technology into safety net clinics. Through the OCHIN contract the Health Department implemented the Epic Practice management system providing services including specialized Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) billing and reporting, electronic billing for Oregon Medicaid and other grant billing and reporting services. Starting in 2005, the Health Department implemented an Electronic Health Record (EHR). In addition to the software provided by OCHIN, OCHIN also provides and supports ancillary software and services needed to support the clinics and public health applications. These ancillary software and services include interfaces to external laboratories, claims clearinghouses, and healthcare databases. The procurement authority allows for the continuation of the current contracts with OCHIN is set to expire on June 30, 2018. The Health Department believes that the continued use of OCHIN's services and software is in the best interest of the public for the following reasons.

Health Department Specific Customization. OCHIN, through its customized implementation of Epic software, provides for the unique billing and reporting needs of the Health Department. It also includes customizations specific to the needs of unique clinic environments including Dental, School Based Health Centers, Corrections Health, STD Services and most recently Communicable Disease Services. If the Health Department were to procure Epic through another source the customized/configured functionality would not transfer, and would have to be replicated adding significant additional time and cost of implementation.

Buying Power. OCHIN provides reduced Epic system pricing due to economies of scale across all contracting agencies offsetting costs that we as a County would have paid on our own if we were to contract separately. OCHIN is the only HRSA designated Health-Center Controlled Network in Oregon which offsets costs through a federal grant funding.

Data Sharing. By contracting with OCHIN, MCHD participates in a collaborative with other local Health Departments and private not for profit health care providers to share a single patient electronic medical record which provides research capabilities and enhanced quality of care that would not be available through any other provider. OCHIN partners with Epic to provide software, and the resulting EHR is linked across all member clinic sites for a fully integrated electronic health information exchange system in which each patient has a single medical record. This collaboration across the network helps to improve the quality of care delivered across the entire network whose clients tend to be the medically underserved. Since OCHIN was initially established by community health center leaders in Oregon, the coalition membership in Oregon is the broadest of all of the 23 States that OCHIN provides services in.

Research Capabilities. OCHIN is a founding member and administrative home to the OCHIN Practice-based Research Network (PBRN). OCHIN is unique among PBRNs because they have no formal affiliation with a particular academic health center, and is made up exclusively of FQHCs and rural health centers. The mission of OCHIN Research is to improve the health of underserved populations, enhance their quality of care, and inform health policy through research.

The combination of factors – a multi-state network of safety net clinics, an EHR rich with data linked across the network, the ability to improve access to care as well as achieve cost efficiencies through being part of a Health-Center Controlled Network, and participation in research from a uniquely qualified PBRN – are the reasons why the Health Department believes that OCHIN is the one source for provision of these specific goods and services.

3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

The estimated amount for July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2023 is \$11,250,000. This is based on prior spend.

4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

The Public Contract Review Board (PCRB rule 47-0275) allows sole-source procurements and exemption from the competitive contracting processes if it is determined to serve the best interest of the public.

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.

None.

Required Signature

**Elected
Official or
Department
Director:**

/s/ Wendy Lear

Date:

05/23/18