



**SAN BENITO COUNTY
AGENDA ITEM
TRANSMITTAL FORM**

Dom Zanger
District No. 1
Vice-Chair

Kollin Kosmicki
District No. 2
Chair

Mindy Sotelo
District No. 3

Angela Curro
District No. 4

Ignacio Velazquez
District No. 5

Item Number: 1.20

MEETING DATE: 08/12/2025

DEPARTMENT: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

AGENDA ITEM PREPARER: Yolanda Beltran

DEPT HEAD/DIRECTOR: Tracey Belton

SUBJECT:

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY-T. BELTON

Authorize three (3) Public Health County employees, including Epidemiologist, Health Education Associate II and Health Education Associate I, to travel out of state to Washington D.C. to attend the American Public Health Association (APHA) 2025 Annual Meeting on November 1, 2025 through November 6, 2025, including payment of conference registration fees, airfare, lodging, and per diem for a total cost of \$8,579.90 in accordance with San Benito County Travel Policy and Board Rules.
SBC FILE NUMBER: 420

AGENDA SECTION:

CONSENT AGENDA

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

Purpose of Travel

The Tobacco Education Program team within San Benito County Public Health Services—comprised of Health Education Associates Javier Perez and Sean Smith, Program Manager Erika V. Perez, and Health Assistant Daisy Reynoso, in collaboration with County Health Officer Cheryl Scott and Epidemiologist Priyanka Parikh—jointly developed a research abstract entitled Adolescent Awareness and Attitudes of Oral Nicotine Pouches Within a Rural California County. This work addresses emerging trends in youth nicotine use and was guided by Priyanka’s expertise in developing robust data collection tools, conducting thorough analyses, and applying an advanced epidemiological framework. Her leadership ensured scientific rigor and compliance with current public health standards.

This abstract has been selected for **poster presentation at the American Public Health Association (APHA) 2025 Annual Meeting**, scheduled for **November 4, 2025, in Washington, D.C.** This marks the first instance that a submission from the San Benito County Tobacco Education Program has been accepted for presentation at this prestigious national forum.

Staff Participation and Roles

We respectfully request approval for the following staff members—co-authors of the accepted abstract—to attend and represent San Benito County at the APHA Annual Meeting:

- **Sean Smith**, Health Education Associate I and Project Coordinator
- **Javier Perez**, Health Education Associate II and Coalition/Community Engagement Coordinator
- **Priyanka Parikh**, County Epidemiologist and Lead Research Analyst

Presentation Responsibilities:

- Mr. Smith and Mr. Perez will present the poster, explaining research methodology, key findings, and lessons learned. Their complementary roles support effective communication with national public health professionals during both the formal session and follow-up discussions.
- Ms. Parikh will assist in presenting data results, address technical questions related to statistical analyses and adolescent use trends, and participate in expert discussions around surveillance and evaluation strategies. Her presence ensures that the study's epidemiological depth is properly conveyed.

Broader Engagement and Programmatic Benefit

In addition to the poster presentation, staff will engage in roundtable discussions, expert-led panels, and networking forums with health professionals, researchers, and policymakers from across the country. These activities will facilitate knowledge exchange, promote innovation, and advance equity-focused tobacco control strategies.

Participation in the APHA Annual Meeting will provide:

- **National Recognition** for San Benito County's efforts in youth tobacco prevention
- **Professional Development** and exposure to best practices and emerging public health research
- **Strengthened Community Programs** through actionable insights and interagency collaboration opportunities

This travel will directly contribute to enhancing San Benito County's local prevention efforts and solidify our commitment to evidence-based, equity-driven public health initiatives.

Estimated Cost:

Registration: \$850 each (before 9/15) x 3 staff = \$2,250.00

Meal Per Diem Estimate: \$552.00 x 3 staff = \$1,656.00

Hotel: \$196 per night (5) = \$1,136.30 x 3 staff = \$3,408.90

Flight: SFO to DCA \$307 X 3 staff = \$921.00
Parking: SFO Airport Parking = \$144.00
Ride Share/Uber/Lift/Taxi: \$200.00
Total Estimated Cost: \$8,579.90

Budgeted Funding Sources: Future of Public Health (FoPH) and Tobacco Education Program.

RESOLUTION OR ORDINANCE NEEDED FOR THIS ITEM:

N/A

CONTRACT NEEDED FOR THIS ITEM:

N/A

RFP AND BID HISTORY:

N/A

LAST CONTRACT AMOUNT OR N/A:

N/A

CONTRACT HISTORY (Describe all amendments and previous contracts):

N/A

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 1. Operational Development & Excellence

No

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 2. Planning And Sustainable Growth

No

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 3. Technology

No

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 4. Community Engagement

No

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 5. Health & Safe Community

Yes

BUDGETED:

Yes

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT NEEDED:

No

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Non-general Fund

UNFUNDED MANDATE:

N/A

SBC BUDGET LINE ITEM NUMBER:

224.80.xxxx.1000.619.194, 196,198,200

CURRENT FY COST:

Estimated total cost to be \$8,579.90

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

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ATTACHMENTS:

[Out of State Travel- PH to APHA 2025 Washington D.C.](#)