

SYN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

February 4, 2003

During the past year, there has been a serious and persistent outbreak of a highly infectious skin disease called methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (or MRSA) among the inmate population at the Sheriff's detention facilities. The analysis of the outbreak indicates that approximately 9% of the inmates became infected before their incarceration. This is a serious disease. Nearly a thousand inmates were infected in 2002, causing 57 to be hospitalized during the first eight months. The Sheriff's medical staff are working closely with the Acute Communicable Disease Control personnel of the Department of Health Services (DHS) on treatment, control and prevention strategies.

Coincidentally with the development of the outbreak within County jails, a number of medical providers in the community began reporting increased occurrences of the disease among their patients. Many of these reports have come from physicians treating HIV positive patients. Outbreaks have also occurred in other segments of the community.

The frequency of these reports within the community, along with the continuing outbreak among the jail population, have brought DHS public health staff to the

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conclusion that the response to both must be coordinated as one overall public health problem. The MRSA outbreak is reminiscent of the Syphilis outbreak two years ago, which reflected a similar institutional and community pattern.

The DHS public health and Sheriff medical personnel have initiated a number of measures to manage the outbreak and prevent any further spread of the disease. At the same time, it is important that the Board receive a complete briefing on this matter in order to assure that sufficient resources are in place to address this public health threat.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board schedule as a set item at our meeting of February 11, 2003, a presentation on the status of the MRSA outbreak, along with appropriate recommendations, by the Director of DHS and Sheriff medical personnel.

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