



COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: March 5, 2024

ITEM TITLE, PRESENTER: Consideration and approval of the HHS emPOWER Emergency Response Outreach Individual Dataset Signature Letter, Grant Sunada, Public Health Director

RECOMMENDATION: EnterTextHere

SUMMARY

Problem:

In order to live independently in their homes, at-risk individuals rely on medical and assistive electrical equipment and devices and certain essential healthcare services (such as dialysis, oxygen services, home health or hospice services, or utilize durable medical equipment or devices). Local incidents, such as prolonged power outages, large-scale emergencies and disasters, can rapidly thrust these individuals into life-threatening situations within hours or days. Public health authorities have reported that they did not have access to timely information that could help them rapidly identify at-risk individuals who may need life-saving assistance and or response outreach activities in the event of an incident, emergency, or disaster.

Solution:

Approval via a signed version of the attached document would authorize the Public Health Department to obtain the identifiable EMPOWER data from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in the federal government for emergency response purposes.

In the event of an incident, emergency, or disaster, public health authorities may submit a disclosure request for official review and approval of a minimum necessary HHS emPOWER Emergency Response Outreach Individual Dataset to support critical life-saving assistance and response outreach public health activities. The HHS emPOWER Dataset can be used by public health authorities to activate emergency plans and communications, deploy response assets and resources, and conduct life-saving outreach with authorized partners in the event of an incident, emergency, or disaster.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.