

**MEMORANDUM  
PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Adult System of Care**

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Richard J. Burton, M.D., M.P.H.  
Placer County Health Officer and Director of Health & Human Services  
Maureen F. Bauman, Director of Adult System of Care

**DATE:** March 21, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Approve Contract with Peter Van Auken, M.D. for Psychiatric Services

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**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Approve the contract with Peter Van Auken, M.D., to provide psychiatric services in the Adult System of Care from April 14, 2006 through April 13, 2007 with an annual salary of \$197,374 (total compensation package \$288,311), and authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign the contract on behalf of Placer County.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Adult System of Care (ASOC) has worked with Peter Van Auken, M.D., for the past three years as a contract employee and is very pleased with his contributions in our system. Prior to that, Dr. Van Auken provided psychiatric services to Placer County as our Chief Physician from September 1988 until January 1999. Dr. Van Auken's return brings valuable knowledge and experience to our system and is a welcome asset to our full-time psychiatric staff.

Dr. Van Auken provides psychiatric residential services at the Rosewood program at Cirby Hills, as well as in-patient services at our Psychiatric Health Facility. He also provides the psychiatric testimony necessary in any court process and reviews persons who are placed in the Sacramento contracted IMD (Institutes for Mental Disease) facility. Dr. Van Auken provides excellent pharmacological and psychiatric care to clients as a part of the ASOC multi-disciplinary team.

Through continued utilization of the contract employee option, the ASOC has become more successful in our ability to recruit and retain these professionals who are in great demand nationally. This employee contract option has permitted the County to better tailor the compensation package, and thereby help strengthen our competitive situation during changing labor market conditions. It should be noted, however, that with a limited market to draw from there is always the concern that a vacated position could go unfilled due to market shortages. The current psychiatric staffing is reduced, like many other services in the ASOC, and so any vacancy can become critical.

We are confident that this package will continue to provide a long-term employee for Placer County. Personnel, County Counsel and CEO's Office have reviewed this contract.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The attached contract employee package has been negotiated with Dr. Van Auken and remains, for the third consecutive year, at salary range Step E with a cost of living adjustment. The contract amount (excluding benefits, expense and tuition reimbursements, and retention bonus) will be \$197,374. The total cost to the County is \$288,311.

These services were projected as part of the Adult System of Care budget for mental health services. The funding utilized for these services is a combination of Medi-Cal (35%), Realignment (35%), and County General Fund (30%).

The following contract with:

**Peter Van Auken, MD -  
Psychiatric Services for ASOC**

is on file with the Clerk of the Board  
for BOS meeting:

**March 21, 2006**