



M E M O R A N D U M
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
HUMAN SERVICES
County of Placer

TO: Board of Supervisors DATE: March 9, 2021
FROM: Robert L. Oldham, MD, MSHA, Director of Health and Human Services
SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the inmate healthcare providers to apply for and sign on behalf of inmates for the Medi-Cal Inmate Eligibility Program (MCIP)

ACTION REQUESTED

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the California Forensic Medical Group, Inc. (CFMG) and any future contracted inmate healthcare provider to apply for and sign on behalf of inmates for the Medi-Cal Inmate Eligibility Program (MCIP).

BACKGROUND

The California State Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) through its agreement with the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requires local county Inmate healthcare services to be provided within the Placer County Jail and Juvenile Detention Facility. These services include primary medical care, dental care, pharmaceuticals, mental health services, acute hospital care and specialty care to a current monthly average population of approximately 735 inmates and juvenile wards. Placer County Health and Human Services contracts with California Forensic Medical Group, Inc. (CFMG) to provide these Inmate Health Services.

Medical care provided to inmates, while incarcerated, cannot be billed to Medi-Cal. The County is financially responsible for the medical care provided to inmates on-site in the jail and off-site in the hospital emergency room and specialty medical offices. Since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), medical care provided to inmates in an inpatient hospital setting is eligible for Medi-Cal reimbursement if the inmate is enrolled in the Medi-Cal Inmate Eligibility Program (MCIP).

As indicated above, if an inmate is admitted to a hospital, the inmate's Medi-Cal benefits may be temporarily activated for obtaining Medi-Cal coverage for the acute inpatient hospital services provided to that inmate. California Penal Code Section 4011.11 grants authority to counties to submit an application on behalf of a hospitalized inmate.

On June 25, 2019, your Board approved a contract with California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG), for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023 to provide medical, mental health, and substance use disorder services to inmates at the County Adult Detention Facilities and wards at the Juvenile Justice Campus. When inmates require acute inpatient hospital and are enrolled in MCIP, these costs are billed to MediCal. If the patient is not enrolled in MCIP, because of the patient's refusal or inability to apply, the County can be responsible for these costs, which at times can amount to tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Designating CFMG and any future contracted inmate healthcare providers as the entity authorized to apply and sign on behalf of County jail inmates for MCIP will allow for Medi-Cal reimbursement for providers of inpatient hospitalization services and defray those costs from the County jail.

Health and Human Services is requesting your Board adopt a resolution authorizing CFMG and any future contracted inmate healthcare providers as the entity authorized to apply and sign on behalf of County jail inmates for MCIP.

The Placer County Sheriff's Office supports the Board's adoption of this resolution.

FISCAL IMPACT

Since January 2020, 66 inmates have received inpatient medical or psychiatric treatment within an inpatient setting for a minimum of 24 hours. Of these 66 individuals, 21 (32%) did not have Medi-Cal within the year prior to admission, requiring a new application. Their lengths of stay for each admission ranged from two to 30 days, with three of these six to ten days six from eleven to 20 days, and 3 greater than 20 days. For at least three of these patients, the County was unable to secure Medi-Cal coverage, and consequently assumed responsibility for over \$145,000 in these cases. Authorizing the inmate healthcare provider to apply and sign on behalf of inmates for MCIP would result in a significant savings annually to the County General Fund.

ATTACHMENT

Resolution

Before the Board of Supervisors County of Placer, State of California

In the matter of:

Adopting a resolution authorizing the contracted inmate healthcare provider to apply for and sign the Medi-Cal application on behalf of individual inmates as necessary Resolution No.: _____

The following Resolution was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held _____ by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Chair, Board of Supervisors

Attest:

Clerk of said Board

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer, State of California, authorize the contracted inmate healthcare provider to apply for and sign the Medi-Cal application on behalf of individual inmates as necessary.

