

**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:** November 20, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Contract Employee Agreement with Steven G. Sugden, M.D. for Psychiatric Services

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**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Approve a contract employee agreement with Steven G. Sugden, M.D. as staff psychiatrist for the provision of inpatient psychiatric services from December 1, 2012 through November 30, 2013 with direct compensation of \$285,372 for a total compensation not to exceed \$342,293 (\$119,803 net County cost) and authorize the Chair to sign subsequent minor or ministerial amendments, other than for direct compensation, up to 10 percent of the original contract amount.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Adult System of Care (ASOC) provides unique and mandated mental health services, which includes specialty psychiatric services to 736 persons with acute symptoms at the Placer County Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) at Cirby Hills. The persons receiving specialty psychiatric services are those who are potentially a danger to themselves or others, or gravely disabled due to a mental illness.

Dr. Sugden serves as the one full-time psychiatrist on the inpatient unit for this at-risk patient population. ASOC redesigned utilization of psychiatrists on this unit last year to move from two part-time doctors to one full-time in order to increase consistency and to improve patient care. Dr. Sugden has more than fulfilled these goals as he returned to Placer County last year with experience at both county and private inpatient programs. His expertise and quality care have improved the continuity of care in all critical service areas including medication management, consistency and familiarity with patients and their families, consistency when interfacing with crisis, ER, law enforcement and partners providing on-call and admission orders to the PHF as well as internal staff, Public Guardian, and Telecare staff.

Dr. Sugden possesses many skills in addition to his inpatient specialty. He is bilingual in Spanish, experienced in addiction treatment and well versed in legal, ethical and risk management issues related to the delivery of psychiatric emergency and inpatient services. We are fortunate to have Dr. Sugden, with his expertise and skills to provide critical coverage and excellent service to Placer County patients.

The contract reimbursement remains at the same level as last year's contract. Personnel, County Counsel, and CEO's Office are supportive of this approach.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Funding for this contract includes \$222,490 (65%) in Federal and State funds and \$119,803 (35%) in required County General Fund match. These costs are included in the Department's FY 2012-13 Final Budget.

A copy of this contract is on file with Clerk of the Board for review.

