

**MEMORANDUM
PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Community Clinics**

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Richard J. Burton, M.D., M.P.H.,
Placer County Health Officer and Director of Health & Human Services
Michael Mulligan, M.D., M.B.A., Assistant Health Officer

DATE: December 5, 2006

SUBJECT: Contract with Sutter Medical Foundation for provision of Professional Medical Coverage Hospitalist Services for Hospitalized Placer County Community Clinic Patients

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve the contract with Sutter Medical Foundation for Professional Medical Coverage Hospitalist Services for the period from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2008, in the amount of \$100,000, and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to sign this agreement and subsequent amendments.

BACKGROUND:

"Hospitalists" are hospital-based physicians who provide patient care and case management while patients are in the hospital.

Throughout the United States, hospitalist programs have improved the overall case management of inpatients, resulting in quicker resolution of health issues and shorter length of stays. Such innovative techniques can and do help to control and contain escalating health care costs, and permit individuals to receive consistent and standardized care by one or more physicians dedicated to this single purpose, as opposed to on-call physicians who must also maintain their respective outpatient practices.

Placer County Community Clinic has had a contract with Sutter Medical Foundation to provide hospitalist services to our patients treated at Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital since September 2003. These services have included admitting and managing hospitalized County patients, preparing discharge summaries, and, in general, coordinating the care that County patients receive while at the hospital.

Based on extensive negotiations with Sutter, HHS was successful in reducing the cost to Placer County for this new agreement by 58%, with no reduction in service levels. The negotiation of this revised rate resulted in a delay in the development of this contract.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The funding for this agreement includes 55% Medicare/Medi-Cal and 45% County General Fund. The total funding for this contract is substantially lower than the cost to maintain on-call physician coverage for our hospitalized patients.

The following Contract for:

Sutter Medical Foundation

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

December 5, 2006