

MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Mike Boyle, Assistant County Executive Officer

DATE: March 25, 2008

SUBJECT: FIRST 5 PLACER CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FIRST COMMISSION - Approve appointment of Supervisor Holmes to serve on the Regional Healthy Kids Healthy Future Board of Directors and endorse in concept the Regional Healthy Kids Healthy Future Project Charter.

ACTION REQUESTED

1. Approve appointment of Supervisor Holmes to serve on the Regional Healthy Kids Healthy Future Board of Directors.
2. Endorse in concept the Regional Healthy Kids Healthy Future Project Charter.

BACKGROUND

For your Boards consideration, the First 5 - Placer Children and Families Commission founded a local Children's Health initiative and joined a regional effort known as Healthy Kids Healthy Future to obtain a comprehensive, affordable health insurance product for children not eligible for existing publicly funded programs in Placer County. The First 5 Placer Commission and the Placer Children's Health Initiative Coalition request that Supervisor Jim Holmes represent Placer County on the Health Kids Healthy Future Board of Directors.

In addition, First 5 Placer Children & Families Commission has submitted the Sacramento Sierra Valley Children's Health Initiative Regional Project Charter. By endorsing the concept of this charter, new participating counties and/or county commissions agree to the vision and principles of the Sacramento Sierra Valley Regional Children's Health Initiative.

FISCAL IMPACT

No county funds are requested.



FIRST 5

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Placer Children & Families Commission

Catherine Goins - Chair
Bob McDonald - Vice Chair
Dayle Edgerton, RN - Commissioner

Dr. Sandra Naylor-Goodwin - Commissioner
Jim Holmes - Commissioner
Dr. Elaine Rowen - Commissioner

Kim Haswell - Commissioner
Melanie Cleary - Commissioner
Dr. Richard Burton - Commissioner

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: First 5 – Placer Children and Families Commission
Date: March 13, 2008
Subject: Request for Supervisors Holmes to serve on the Regional Healthy Kids Healthy Future Board of Directors and endorsement of the Regional Healthy Kids Healthy Future Project Charter

Action Requested:

- 1) Appointment of Supervisor Jim Holmes to serve on the Regional Healthy Kids Healthy Future Board of Directors; and,
- 2) Endorse the Regional Healthy Kids Healthy Future Project Charter.

Background:

The First 5 – Placer Children and Families Commission founded a local Children's Health Initiative and joined a regional effort known as Healthy Kids Healthy Future (HKHF) to obtain a comprehensive, affordable health insurance product (i.e., Placer Healthy Kids) for children not eligible for existing publicly funded programs in Placer County. The other counties in the regional effort are Colusa, El Dorado, Sacramento, and Yuba.

The HKHF regional coalition requires that each participating county have representation from the Board of Supervisors on the regional HKHF Board of Directors.

The First 5 Placer Commission and the Placer Children's Health Initiative Coalition request that Supervisor Jim Homes represent Placer County on the HKHF Board of Directors.

A recent feasibility study, commissioned by the First 5 – Placer Children and Families Commission, the California Healthcare Foundation, and the Placer County Health & Human Services Department, found that there are currently 4,337 children 0 -18 in Placer County that have no health insurance. It is estimated that approximately 80% of uninsured children are eligible for publicly funded programs such as Medi-Cal or Healthy Families. The remaining 20% of uninsured children will be covered by the new "Placer Healthy Kids" insurance.

Fiscal Impact:

The Placer Children's Health Initiative is funded by the First 5 Placer Children and Families Commission. No county funds are requested.

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This charter lays out a set of guiding principles for the Sacramento Sierra Valley Children's Health Initiative (CHI) and permits additional counties within the region to join Colusa, El Dorado, Sacramento and Yuba counties in the regional CHI. By endorsing this charter, new participating counties and/or county commissions agree to the vision and principles of the Sacramento Sierra Valley Regional CHI as they implement their own local initiatives.

**Sacramento Sierra Valley Children's Health Initiative
Regional Project Charter
January, 2007**

Background

The Sacramento Sierra Valley Region has implemented a plan that maximizes enrollment of the region's children in Medi-Cal and Healthy Families and provides a new comprehensive insurance product called Healthy Kids for children ineligible for existing coverage programs. The Sacramento Sierra Valley Children's Health Initiative (CHI) is targeting all eligible children who are in families with incomes up to 300% of the federal poverty level (FPL). Results from the 2001 California Health Interview Survey indicate that approximately 66,000 children between the ages of 0 and 18 did not have health insurance coverage all or part of the year in the region, of which nearly 19,000 are under the age of 6. It is also estimated that 2 out of 3 of the uninsured children in the region are eligible but not enrolled in Medi-Cal or Healthy Families, with the third child ineligible for existing public programs.¹

Recent findings from a report commissioned by the Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society and the First 5 Commissions indicate that 9 out of 16 hospitals in the region reported in 2001 that 50% or more of their emergency room visits were for a condition that could have been addressed in a non-emergency setting. In addition, it was found that hospitals in the region are spending approximately \$150 million annually in uncompensated care. Without access to regular preventive and primary care, children in the Sacramento Sierra Valley lack a regular source of coordinated and continuous care (i.e. a medical home). This lack of access leads to poorer health outcomes, higher health system costs and overburdened emergency departments. Furthermore, inappropriate health care utilization will continue to drain regional health and safety resources.

For these reasons, it is of utmost importance for the region to implement a family-friendly system for insuring its youngest and most vulnerable residents and to encourage additional counties within this region to join this regional effort. Regional stakeholders must implement effective and sustained Medi-Cal and Healthy Families outreach and enrollment strategies and a new Healthy Kids program in order to: (1) maximize families' participation in available public programs, (2) increase the number of insured children in all participating counties, and (3) optimize the amount of revenue for the region's hospitals, clinics and physicians. The successful implementation of these objectives will improve the health and development of all children in the Sacramento Sierra Valley.

While this initiative is an important step towards achieving health insurance coverage for all children, it does not ensure access to health care for every child due to resource and system constraints. In order to truly achieve health care access for all children, a commitment to changing public policy and an allocation of the necessary resources must be made to provide comprehensive health care for all children in California.

Vision

“Every child in the Sacramento Sierra Valley area will have access to comprehensive, affordable, and continuous health coverage and a medical home that is culturally and linguistically appropriate.”

Project Goals

1. Implement a seamless enrollment and retention system in which children will have insurance coverage that is portable across all counties participating in the regional Children’s Health Initiative, and includes a regional application process for all children’s health insurance programs.
2. Implement a comprehensive and portable regional health insurance product for children ages 0 through 18 in families with incomes at or below 300% FPL (about \$55,000 for a family of four) who are not eligible for existing public programs.
3. Maximize appropriate utilization of preventive and primary care services, including educating families on the value and appropriate use of health care services.
4. Maximize health coverage retention through the year and during the annual renewal process to ensure continuity of care.
5. Develop sufficient provider capacity to provide accessible health services to children throughout the region. Provide support and technical assistance for providers, particularly with respect to the licensing and certification process, to enhance the availability of services across counties.
6. Advocate for simplified outreach, enrollment and retention policies and procedures at the state, federal and local levels.
7. Advocate for changes in public policy to support health insurance coverage for all children in California.
8. Limit administrative overhead by eliminating the duplication of costs.
9. Create a systematic approach for measuring children’s health outcomes and a protocol for evaluating the regional Children’s Health Initiative.
10. Investigate and develop technology solutions to share and exchange children’s health information between the child’s health care providers.