

MEMORANDUM
PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Community Health and 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
Mark Starr, D.V.M., M.P.V.M., Director of Community Health and Clinics

DATE: December 9, 2008

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

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve a contract with Sutter Medical Foundation for Professional Medical Coverage Hospitalist Services for Community Clinic patients admitted to Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital and Sutter Roseville Medical Center for the period from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2010 in the amount of \$100,000, and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services to sign the contract and subsequent amendments. These costs are reflected in the Department's 2008/09 Final Budget, with offsetting revenue from Medi-Cal and Medicare, private pay, and the Medical Care Services Program (MCSP), supported by \$25,295 in County General Funds.

BACKGROUND:

"Hospitalists" are hospital-based physicians who provide patient care and case management while patients are in the hospital for acute illness, injuries, or medically necessary surgeries. Throughout the United States, hospitalist programs have improved the overall case management of inpatients, resulting in quicker resolution of health issues and shorter lengths of stay. Such innovative techniques 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 Clinics have had a contract with Sutter Medical Foundation to provide hospitalist services to hospitalized Community Clinic patients since September 2003. Approximately 580 County patients are admitted to these two hospitals each year. Hospitalist services include admission and management of hospitalized County patients, preparation of discharge summaries, and, in general, coordination of the care that County patients receive while in the hospital.

The cost of this contract, \$50,000 per year, is being maintained at the 2006-08 rate.

FISCAL IMPACT:

These costs are reflected in the Department's 2008/09 Final Budget, with revenue from Medi-Cal and Medicare, private pay, and \$25,295 of County General Funds.

This contract is on file with the Clerk of the Board for your review.

