

MEMORANDUM
PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Community Health, Clinics, and Animal Services

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, Clinics, and Animal Services

DATE: February 8, 2011

SUBJECT: Contract for Software to Implement Electronic Medical Records

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve a contract with Oregon Community Health Information Network (OCHIN), Inc. not to exceed \$143,000 to implement electronic medical records in the Community Clinics, and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services (HHS) to sign the resulting contract and any subsequent amendments up to 10 percent of the original amount.

BACKGROUND:

On May 28, 2008, the Board of Supervisors authorized HHS to make several information technology improvements in Community Clinics to replace aging systems and enhance efficiencies. Subsequently, a new pharmacy program; dental practice management; dental electronic health record system; software to manage, track and pay Placer County Medical Care Services Program (MCSP) services; and medical practice management software to manage demographics, scheduling, and billing for Clinic services were acquired. Implementation of these systems has set the stage for the final improvement to the Clinic's health data system.

During the last decade, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have devoted tremendous resources to the development and demonstration of the efficiencies of electronic medical records (EMR). Implementation of EMR in Community Clinics now will put Placer County in the best position to access federal resources in the next few years. For example, CMS has recently announced an incentive program to stimulate the purchase and installation of EMR by providers and clinics. In addition, because of our affiliation with OCHIN, a grant they obtained allowed them to reduce the cost for EMR implementation in the Community Clinics by 30 percent.

EMR offers clinics several efficiencies: 1) Immediate access to patient's history; 2) Ability to control and track access to patient's record; 3) Multiple users may access the record at the same time; 4) Ability to securely share a record with other providers immediately, such as a hospital emergency department; 5) Ability to immediately retrieve a patient's history from another physician or facility after patient consent; 6) Elimination of paper storage; 7) Electronic ordering of pharmaceuticals and diagnostic tests; and 8) Various features such as reminders and alerts, and clinical decision support – all resulting in better and more accurate service.

All of the hospitals and major health systems in Placer County, including Kaiser, Sutter and UC Davis, utilize the same EMR software, *EpicCare*, as will be implemented in Community Clinics via this contract with OCHIN. This will allow the electronic exchange of records described above when needed and approved by the patient, and, for those providers with different EMR software, *EpicCare* includes a tool that enables electronic sharing of records with these providers.

The analyses that preceded the structured procurement of clinic systems from OCHIN, approved by the Board of Supervisors on May 28, 2008, included evaluation of the accompanying EMR system offered by OCHIN and determined it fits the business requirements of the Community Clinics. The cost to procure this industry-leading EMR system outside of the partnership with OCHIN would be over four times as much.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The contract is funded through \$115,000 in Federal funds and \$28,000 in County General Funds. Of this amount, \$16,000 in Federal funds is included in the Department's FY 2010-11 Final Budget, and \$127,000 (\$99,000 in Federal funds and \$28,000 in County General Funds) will be included in the FY 2011-12 Base Budget. The County General Fund portion will be offset by savings as a result of decreased accounting and clerical requirements.

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