



County of Santa Cruz 0143

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

POST OFFICE BOX 962, 1080 EMELINE AVENUE SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-0962
(831) 454-4000 FAX: (831) 454-4488 TDD: (831) 454-4123

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

AGENDA: February 1, 2000

January 18, 2000

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SUBJECT: HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY GRANT PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH LOCAL
TELE-HEALTH WEB SITE

Dear Members of the Board:

The Health Services Agency was recently informed by the California Telehealth & Telemedicine Center that our County has been invited to submit a grant proposal to that organization in the amount of \$90,000 to allow the development of a local, community-based tele-health web site.

Our Agency proposes to act as the host for the web site using existing HSA computer network infrastructure. We hope to collaborate with local community health and human services organizations to develop the site to provide and promote culturally competent health, health education and health information services and resources to residents of the County targeting under-served populations. We anticipate ongoing support of the web site contingent on first year grant funding can be managed using existing HSA and community resources.

The grant proposal includes funding requests to purchase public access terminals for installation at key HSA service locations to provide access to clients or residents who might not otherwise have access to the Internet. We also envision an outreach and advertising campaign to promote use of the site by the public. A copy of the grant proposal is attached.

As your Board is aware, HSA currently provides a wide array of health information services to the public using public outreach, pamphlets, films, mailings and other resource materials. Other local health and human service providers also provide similar services. We believe consolidating many of these materials and making them accessible via the web in both English and Spanish versions will greatly enhance our community's access to health care and health information services.

Rapid changes in technology are making the web an ever expanding source of health information and increasingly a means to actually provide healthcare services online. Once a central County health resource on the web is established, HSA plans to pursue future grant opportunities through the CTTC and other funding sources to explore other telehealth and telemedicine options that improve access to health services, reduce the costs to provide service, or assist in bringing necessary health services to under-served populations.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED your Board:

Authorize the Health Services Agency to submit a grant application to the California Telehealth and Telemedicine Center requesting \$90,000 in funding to support development of a community-based Internet world wide web site to provide and promote culturally competent health, health education and health information services to County residents.

Sincerely,



Rama Khalsa
Health Services Agency Administrator

RECOMMENDED:

^c
Susan A. Mauriello
County Administrative Officer

Attachment: CTTC Grant Application

Cc: CAO
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller
HSA Administration
Information Services Director