



# County of Santa Cruz

## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

P.O. BOX 962, 1060 EMELINE AVENUE  
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061  
(831) 454-4066 FAX: (831) 454-4770

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY  
ADMINISTRATION

Date: January 11, 2001

**AGENDA: January 23, 2001**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
County of Santa Cruz  
701 Ocean Street, Fifth Floor  
Santa Cruz, CA 95061

### **SUBJECT: REPORT BACK ON THE UNINSURED AND ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE**

Dear Members of the Board:

#### Background:

In the June 2000 budget hearings, your Board directed the Health Services Agency to provide a report on a number of critical health care issues of interest to the County. Some of the questions posed by your Board were, "How many individuals and families are without health insurance? How is access to health care for low-income families, individuals with Medical, and uninsured individuals?" "What is the overall relationship of these issues to our County health programs and community clinics?" and "What are the charity contributions of our local hospitals?"

Since this Board direction, HSA staff has been working to compile a comprehensive report for your Board. In researching these issues, it was discovered that a full report on these issues had not been provided to your Board since 1987. Therefore, a complete history of these issues is provided with information on the current profile of individuals and families with health insurance, access issues with the community, and emerging issues and opportunities that confront health care delivery and financing. The report was developed with input from our community health partners and individuals involved in health policy.

Because of the length and complexity of the report, it is recommended that your Board have two weeks to review the report, attachments, and executive summary. It is also recommended that your Board have a staff presentation on the highlights of the report on

February 6 when there has been adequate time for review. This presentation will include recommendations on continuing efforts to improve community health access and coverage.

Recommendations:

It is, therefore, RECOMMENDED that your Board take the following actions:

1. Accept the Health Services Agency Report on “The Uninsured and Access to Health Care” and direct staff to report back on February 6 with a presentation and recommendations to the Board.

Respectfully submitted,



Rama K. Khalsa, Ph.D.  
Health Services Agency  
Administrator

RECOMMENDED



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Susan Mauriello  
County Administrative Officer

cc: HSA Administration  
Health Care Outreach Coalition  
County Counsel  
County Administrative Office  
HRA Administration

Attachments: Report on The Uninsured and Access to Health Care