



HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY  
ADMINISTRATION

# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

P.O. BOX 962, 1080 EMELINE AVENUE  
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Date: January 29, 2001

**AGENDA: February 6, 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.

Recommendations:

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

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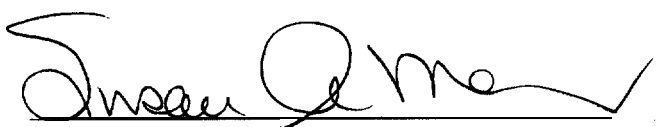
1. Accept the Health Services Agency Report on “The Uninsured and Access to Health Care”; and direct staff to report back during budget hearings on recommendations 2-6 as described.
2. Direct HSA staff to forward this report to Federal and State elected officials and discuss recommendations with them that require Federal and State support to improve access to health coverage; and
3. Direct HSA staff to pursue ongoing funding options to support the efforts of the Health Care Outreach Coalition; and
4. Direct HSA staff to do outreach to insurance brokers and small businesses to include them in the Health Care Outreach Coalition to identify options and recommendations for improved coverage of working individuals and families who are currently uninsured; and
5. Direct HSA staff to work with the Alliance on options for and cost of coverage of these individuals through the Alliance Health Plan; and
6. Direct HSA staff to report back during budget hearings on current Hospital Charity Care referral processes that insure patient access and compliance with County contracts.

Respectfully submitted,



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

RECOMMENDED



Susan Mauriello  
County Administrative Officer

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

County Administrative Office  
HRA Administration

Attachments: Report on The Uninsured and Access to Health Care

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