



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY ADMINISTRATION

March 21, 2002

Agenda: April 16, 2002

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: Approval of Application for Federal Grant for the Homeless and
Federal Community Access Program Grant

Dear Members of the Board:

Background:

As discussed with your Board last year in the Report on the Uninsured, Santa Cruz County continues to have approximately 42,000 individuals without health insurance. Approximately one third of these individuals do qualify for Medical, Healthy Families, Veterans Health Services and other forms of insurance, but are not enrolled. In addition, the local healthcare system continues to show the strain of having limited resources to address the needs of uninsured individuals. This is reflected in Emergency Department use at local hospitals, and the poor health status indicators of uninsured individuals. To address these problems, local community clinic providers and the County have been meeting to identify opportunities for expanded health and dental access.

Proposal:

The Health Services Agency (**HSA**) is requesting approval to submit two grant applications, in collaboration with the community clinic safety net providers and others, which would improve health services within the community safety net. The first grant is an expansion of our current Homeless Healthcare Project grant from the federal government Bureau of Primary Care.

This grant is for up to \$300,000 in new funds and will allow expanded access to primary care through Women's Health Services, Planned Parenthood, and Dientes. The funds will go to provide care to homeless uninsured individuals using health and dental services. If this grant were awarded, these non-profit clinics would become sub-recipients providers of the County Healthcare for the Homeless Grant. As such, they

may qualify to provide Federally Qualified Health Center funded Medical services. Because this reimbursement is linked to costs of care rather than fee for service rates, it can help improve funding to the clinics and expand the public safety net. There are no additional County matching funds required by this grant.

In addition, the Bureau of Primary Health Care, which is part of the federal Health Resources and Services Administration, has announced grant opportunities for communities to expand health services to vulnerable populations. These grants focus on creating health care networks to share uncompensated care more fairly among local health providers, improve quality of care, provide health information systems, and other activities to address the health safety net. This grant initiative is call the Community Access Program (CAP).

HSA, in conjunction with the safety net community clinics (Salud Para La Gente, Women's Health Center, Planned Parenthood, and Dientes) and the Health Care Outreach Coalition has developed a grant proposal for \$1,000,000 for improvements to the local health system. The proposal includes expanded health insurance enrollment, linkage of the community clinics through a shared electronic medical records system, establishment of a Safety Net Clinic Coalition to coordinate care and seek funding, and improving partnerships with local physicians and health stakeholders. Additional funds may be applied for in future years to continue efforts towards an integrated health safety net for the local community. There are no County matching funds required of this grant.

Due to very short timelines and the complexity of the proposals, the fund grant documents will not be available till later in this month. Copies of full proposals will be submitted to your Board when complete.

It is, therefore, RECOMMENDED that your Board:

1. Authorize the Health Services Agency to submit a Community Access Program grant to the federal Bureau of Primary Health Care to improve health care access and services in conjunction with other safety net providers in the community; and
2. Authorize the Health Services Agency to submit an expanded Health Care for the Homeless Grant in collaboration with the Women's Health Center and Planned Parenthood, Maremonte.

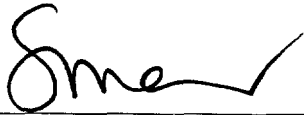
Sincerely,



Rama Khalsa, Ph.D.
Health Services Agency
Administrator

RECOMMENDED:

0019



Susan Mauriello
County Administrative Officer

Cc: County Administrative Office
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller
HSA Administration
Health Care Outreach Coalition
Safety Net Clinics