

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Agenda Number:**

**Prepared on:** 3/10/03  
**Department:** Public Health  
**Budget Unit:** 041  
**Agenda Date:** April 1, 2003  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:**  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

---

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Roger E. Heroux, MPA, Director  
Public Health Department

**STAFF CONTACT:** Michael Harris  
Primary Care and Family Health Division  
681-5214

**SUBJECT:** Professional Services Agreement with Medical Doctor Associates, Inc.

---

**Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

Execute the Agreement with Medical Doctor Associates, Inc. (not a local vendor) to provide locum tenens physicians, for the period April 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004, in the amount of \$675,000.

**Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal No. 2. A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit.

**Executive Summary and Discussion:**

As your Board is aware, the Public Health Department operates six clinics throughout Santa Barbara County to provide medical services to the uninsured and underinsured members of our communities. The physicians who are regular County employees provide the greater part of the physician services in the County clinics. On some occasions, when there are physician vacancies, recruitment results are not immediate. It can be difficult to obtain community physician coverage to bridge the hiring lag. In order to continue mandated services, the Public Health Department has contracted with firms who recruit and place physicians on a temporarily basis. These physicians are known as, "locum tenens".

The Public Health Department is requesting your Board execute this expenditure driven contract for physician services from Medical Doctor Associates, Inc. for present and future fill-in needs. The Department currently has two physician vacancies requiring the services of locum tenens physicians so the Department may continue to maintain its high quality in providing quality clinic care and on-call coverage for the local hospitals. The rates include the cost of the physician services, housing, local transportation and transportation to and from the community of service. This is an expenditure driven contract. When an ordinance position is filled, thirty-day notice will be given to the locum tenens provider. The contracted services do not replace

**Board of Supervisors  
Professional Services Agreement  
Page 2**

physician employee positions, but serve as fill-ins on a temporary basis during the recruitment process. The physicians who are County employees provide the significant proportion of services within the County's primary care clinics. The recruitment of qualified family practice, internal medicine or pediatric physicians is a highly competitive and difficult process often taking months. Using the services provided by a locum tenens service assists the department in minimizing wait times and assists in reducing the number of patients seeking care at local emergency departments.

Medical Doctor Associates, Inc. is not a local company. This service is not available locally. The department has an ongoing relationship with this contractor who has provided quality service.

To assist the department with obtaining locum tenens services, if this contractor cannot meet our needs, the department is also negotiating with other firms for similar services. This may require staff to return to your board in the future.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

The assurance of access to primary care services for indigent patients is mandated by California Administrative Code, Title 17, Chapter 3, Article 2, Sections 1276, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503 and 2505; California Administrative Code, Title 17, Chapter 3, Subchapter 1; and Section 17000 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. In addition, access for pediatric services for Medi-Cal patients is a requirement for primary care clinics with status as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) under CFR 42.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Adoption of this action will not increase the use of general fund contribution or special revenue funds by the Public Health Department.

The appropriation to fund this contract for the remainder of FY 2002-2003 is part of the Public Health Department's adopted budget and can be found on page D-170 of the County's operating plan in the Santa Maria Regional clinics and the Lompoc Regional clinics cost centers. The appropriation to fund the contract for FY 2003-2004 is included in the Department's FY 2003-2004 Recommended budget.

**Special Instructions:**

Return one copy of the signature page of the executed Agreement to the Public Health Department, Calle Real Campus, Attention: Dawn McGrew.

**Concurrence:** None required.