



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

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

Department Name: Sheriff
Department No.: 032
For Agenda Of: November 5, 2019
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Sheriff's Office Sheriff Bill Brown (Ext. 14290)
Contact Info: Lieutenant Shawn T. Lammer (Ext. 14252)
SUBJECT: Medi-Cal County Inmate Program Agreement with California for Eligible Inmates

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

Risk Management: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve, authorize, and ratify the Sheriff, or his designee, to sign the Medi-Cal County Inmate Program Agreement with the California Department of Health Care Services for Medi-Cal reimbursements for eligible inmates with a term of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020; and
- b) Determine that the above recommended action is not subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines because the action consists of a government funding mechanism.

Summary Text:

The Affordable Care Act allows providers to receive payment from Medi-Cal for services related to the healthcare and mental healthcare of inmates held in the custody of the Sheriff and treated outside of the facility when determined eligible. The program designed by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is the Medi-Cal County Inmate Program (MCIP). This agreement will allow DHCS to pay providers directly for covered services and bill the Sheriff's Office for any gaps between what Medi-Cal covers and what is reimbursed to DHCS by Medicare. In other words, MCIP makes federal financial participation (FFP) available for medical care provided to Medi-Cal eligible county inmates. The County of Santa Barbara receives budgetary savings because it does not fund the federal share of MCIP services for their Medi-Cal eligible inmates.

Background:

When inmates in the custody of the Sheriff need medical attention outside the confines of the jail facilities, they are taken to the appropriate location to receive treatment. MCIP is intended to offset the costs to local government when treatments require admission to any offsite healthcare facility.

For instance, participation in MCIP allows Cottage Hospital, who is a Designated Public Hospital (DPH) that can claim through the certified public expenditure (CPE) process, or other Medi-Cal providers to directly bill DHCS for MCIP services and DHCS will reimburse the Medi-Cal providers at their applicable Medi-Cal rate for the services rendered, to the extent FFP is available. In turn DHCS will seek reimbursement through Medi-Cal FFP and charge the County the balance (non-FFP). The Medi-Cal benefit will result in significant savings ranging from \$100,000 to \$200,000 annually.

If approved, the Sheriff will continue to coordinate with the Department of Social Services and Cottage Hospital (as well as other providers) to process MCIP eligibility of inmates. DHCS will charge a very low administrative fee to cover its cost, which is estimated not to exceed \$4,352.14 for the full fiscal year 2019-20. This amount could change depending on the number of counties participating in the program. In addition, the contracts set payment to DHCS for the County's non-FFP at not-to-exceed amounts of \$300,000 for FY 2018-19. In total, the maximum payable amounts by the County shall not exceed \$304,352.14 for FY 2019-20.

Attachment A is the agreement that explains the MCIP and gives guidance to Counties that are voluntarily signing up for the program. It is a valuable reference that will help in understanding the way to receive the MCIP's benefits.

This is a renewal of the FY2018-19 agreement and we recommend you approve and authorize the Sheriff to sign the two attached contracts between the County of Santa Barbara, and State of California, DHCS, for the processing and administration of Medi-Cal claims under the MCIP for the time-period of fiscal year 2019-2020.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted:

Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Budgeted: Included in the FY2019-20 budget

Narrative: This agreement will create an additional payment source for overnight hospital visits for Medi-Cal eligible inmates. In FY 2015-16, Sheriff's Office paid \$550,000 for in-patient health care. The County would be responsible for the non-federal share of cost which could be \$300,000 and administrative charges to the State of California of \$4,352.14. This could result in annualized savings of approximately \$250,000.

Special Instructions:

Clerk of the Board: Please send **three** official Minute Orders to the Sheriff's Office, Attention Shawn T. Lammer. Two of these orders are required to be sent to DHCS and one retained by the Sheriff's Office.

Attachments:

Attachment A: County of Santa Barbara Medi-Cal County Inmate Program Agreement 19-96187

Authored by:

Shawn T. Lammer, Lieutenant
County of Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office
Custody Support Division, Contract Management