



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

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: County Health Department
Department No.: 041
Agenda Date: May 6, 2025
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Mouhanad Hammami, Director
County Health Department
Contact Info: Paola Hurtado, Division Chief, Primary Care & Family Health Division
(805) 698-2418
SUBJECT: Professional Services Agreement with Susanne L. Ramos, M.D., Incorporated

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Susanne L. Ramos, M.D., Incorporated to provide medical services in the Santa Barbara County Health Department Health Care Centers for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$240,000; and
- b) Determine that the recommended action does not constitute a "Project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines, because the action consists of the creation of a government funding mechanism or other government fiscal activity, which does not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda for approval to execute an Agreement with Susanne L. Ramos, M.D., Incorporated to provide Obstetrics and Gynecology services for the County Health Department (CHD). CHD, in accordance with State mandates, provides medical care to those individuals who would otherwise not be able to access the local healthcare system. Physicians, along with other professionals, provide primary medical care and perform administrative duties to ensure that the County fulfills those mandated services.

The County is experiencing an ongoing need for a qualified obstetrics/gynecology (OB/GYN) provider in the Santa Barbara, Franklin, and Carpinteria Health Care Centers. The approval of this Agreement will ensure continuity of patient care, maintain and improve clinical performance measures, and ensure continuity of clinical oversight of the Women's Health team at the Santa Barbara, Franklin, and Carpinteria Health Care Centers.

Background:

Susanne L. Ramos, M.D. began her commitment to the CHD in December 2022 as an independent contractor, providing gynecological services at the Santa Barbara Health Care Center (SBHCC). In October 2023, she began offering obstetrics services at the SBHCC, and serving as clinical support to the Women's Health team at the Santa Barbara, Franklin, and Carpinteria Health Care Centers. In May 2024, CHD received approval to execute an Agreement with Susanne L. Ramos, M.D. Incorporated for FY 2024-25 and is seeking approval to renew this Agreement for FY 2025-26.

Performance Measure:

There are four Performance Objectives for this Agreement to ensure appropriate high-quality patient care while maximizing compliance and service reimbursements:

- 1) Adhere to the County's minimum goals and objectives regarding provider patient panel as specified in policy number 06-C-278 titled "Clinician Scheduling in Health Care Centers - Women's Health Physician in OB Only: 15 completed visits per 4-hour patient care session."
- 2) Monitor quarterly customer satisfaction results and work with health center administration at the Santa Barbara, Franklin, and Carpinteria Health Care Centers to ensure scores remain above the health center mean and that interventions are made when customer satisfaction concerns are noted in the survey findings.
- 3) Achieve fewer newborns with low birth weight as required by the US Health Resources and Services Administration. The objective is that less than 7% of newborns birthed under the terms of this Agreement will be born with a birth weight of 2,499 grams or less. For 2024, our Uniform Data System (UDS) outcome was 7.19%, in 2023 it was 8.83% (lower is better). County Health's Primary Care and Family Health Division goal is 7%, while the UDS national average for 2023 was 8.59% and for California it was 7.68%.
- 4) Adhere to the County's minimum goals and objectives regarding maintaining an accurate and accessible patient medical record. Dr. Ramos as a user of the Electronic Health Record (EHR) shall complete documentation of patient interactions in a timely manner as specified in policy number 14-C-593, "EHR Clinician Document Management Expectations."

During the previous performance period, Dr. Ramos met the performance objectives and continues working closely with the CHD's Women's Health team to exceed the above objectives.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

A Professional Services Agreement with Susanne L. Ramos, M.D. to provide medical services in the amount of \$240,000 is included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Recommended Budget. These services will be funded by Medi-Cal and Medicare patient services fees.

Funding Source	FY 2025-26	Total
General Fund		
State	240,000	240,000
Federal		
Fees		
Other		
Total	240,000	240,000

Staffing Impacts:

None

Special Instructions:

Please execute two originals of the Professional Services Agreement with Susanne L. Ramos, M.D., Incorporated and retain one original Agreement and one Minute Order for pick-up by the department. Please email the Contracts Unit at phdcu@sbcphd.org when available for pickup.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Agreement for Professional Services with Susanne L. Ramos, M.D., Incorporated

Authored by:

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