

**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: 9/5/02
Department Name: Public Health
Department No.: 041
Agenda Date: 10/1/02
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Roger E. Heroux
Public Health Director
STAFF Tara Brown
CONTACT: 681-5217
SUBJECT: Nutrition Services Agreement

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Execute an Agreement with the Santa Barbara Regional Health Authority for Nutrition Education for the period beginning October 1, 2002 in the approximate annual amount of \$35,000.00.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 2. A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit, and Goal No. 5. A high Quality of Life for all Residents.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

This Agreement will provide Medi-Cal fee-for-service reimbursement for outpatient diabetic and nutrition education services provided by Registered Dietitians (RD), Certified Diabetes Educators (CDE) and Certified Lactation Consultants (CLC) and Educators (CLE). This is not a benefit of the State Medi-Cal program. The local Medi-Cal fiscal intermediary, the Santa Barbara Regional Health Authority (SBRHA) has authorized separate reimbursement for these services.

The SBRHA Board recognizes that diabetes and nutrition education are cost-effective, since they prevent the need for more expensive medical and surgical treatments and reduce the costly complications associated with disease progression. They are an important component of the management and prevention of costly complications of illness such as diabetes, morbid obesity, uncontrolled hypertension, hyperlipidemia and renal or cardiovascular disease. Similarly, lactation education is cost-effective, since babies who breast-feed have been found to have fewer childhood illnesses and to bond better with their mothers.

The County has been providing nutrition education to diabetic patients without separate reimbursement for over ten years. This Agreement allows for cost-recovery of services currently provided, and will allow the

nutrition services program to expand. The dietitians and diabetes educators who practice in the Women, Infants and Children's (WIC) program will be reassigned based on demand. The federal WIC budget has capped funding at 14,450 participants in federal Fiscal Year 2002-03 that begins October 1, 2002. This Agreement will allow flexibility of staffing patterns based on availability of funds and greatest patient need.

Lactation services are currently provided on referral from the WIC program without separate reimbursement. The Children and Families Commission (CFC) provided funding for one full-time bilingual lactation consultant during Fiscal Year (FY) 2001-02 and FY 02-03. This Agreement help defray the cost of travel to home visits, service and supplies, continuing education, and supervision of this lactation consultant.

Mandates and Service Levels:

This is a non-mandated program. However, 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.

There will be an increase in nutrition education available to Medi-Cal patients. Dieticians and diabetic educators expect to see 3,000 patients a year, a 33% increase from the current level.

There is no increase in service levels for lactation consultants. They help 960 new mothers a year.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

It is expected that adoption of this Agreement will generate approximately \$ 30,000 in nutrition education services and \$5,000 in lactation consultation services for a total of \$35,000 a year.

This action will not increase the General Fund contribution or use of Special Revenue funds for the Public Health Department. There will also be no projected impact to the department's indirect costs. This action is not intended to create any new costs for the department's adopted FY 02-03 budget.

This action will result in increasing the Federal and State revenues line displayed on page D-176 of the County's FY 02-03 Operating Plan document from \$7,259,737 to \$7,294,737.

Special Instructions:

Please return one fully executed, original agreement to the Department, attention: Tara Brown.

Concurrence:

Not Applicable