



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: ADMHS  
Department No.: 043  
For Agenda Of: 03/27/07  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Tme:  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Director(s) Douglas C. Barton, Interim Director  
Alcohol, Drug & Mental Health Services  
805-681-5220  
Contact Info: Marianne Garrity, ADMHS Assistant Director,  
Administration  
805-681-4092

**SUBJECT:** CompHealth Contract Amendment FY 06-07

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:** Risk Management

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

1. Approve and execute an Amendment to the agreement with CompHealth (not a local vendor) to continue providing Locum Tenens physicians to County mental health clinics in the North County for the period of July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007 in the amount of \$500,000.
2. Authorize the Director of ADMHS to approve amendments to the proposed contract, provided that any such amendments do not exceed ten percent (10%) of the contract's dollar amount.

**Summary Text:**

CompHealth specializes in providing temporary (Locum Tenens) physician coverage to health care agencies around the country, and provides credentialed and insured physicians who are willing to work on a temporary basis in the underserved areas of Santa Barbara County. ADMHS contracted with CompHealth in June 2004 as a measure to provide psychiatrists during a time when civil service psychiatrist coverage was unavailable. This shortage remained a critical issue and the Board of Supervisors approved a contract with CompHealth on June 21, 2005. Approval of the recommended action would continue the services through June 30, 2007.

**Background:**

Within Santa Barbara County, Guadalupe, Santa Maria, and Lompoc have been designated as “rural and underserved areas,” thereby qualifying for “J-1” designation. The “J-1” visa status is a State Department operated program to allow physicians from other countries to enter the United States for the purpose of getting specialized education or to use their specialized skills. This status creates an opportunity to increase the number of available psychiatrists within the county. ADMHS plans to actively recruit valuable candidates from this pool. It is anticipated this new opportunity will reduce the projected need for Locum Tenens utilization over the next fiscal year.

In the interim, while mental health physician recruitment remains difficult, it is important to utilize Locum Tenens physicians as a temporary measure while the ADMHS Director and the County Human Resources Department continue to develop strategies to recruit physicians who will make a long-term commitment to provide service in rural Santa Barbara County.

The Locum Tenens psychiatrists provide the necessary evaluation, medication administration and monitoring services to clients, since only psychiatrists are authorized to prescribe psychotropic medications that are essential to stabilizing symptoms of mental illness. Legal codes require mandatory regular evaluations by a psychiatrist for continued use of these medications. Without these services, the County would be at risk for official sanctions and penalties by the State Department of Mental Health.

During FY 2005-06, CompHealth provided services by 17 Locum Tenens physicians to more than 1,200 clients for over 145,000 minutes, and generated approximately \$680,000 in State Medi-Cal revenue. Given current usage rates, these services are projected to generate approximately \$400,000 in state Medi-Cal by the end of FY 2006-07. Approval of this contract amendment allows for continued physician care for FY 06-07 to Santa Barbara County’s seriously mentally ill residents in rural and underserved areas.

**Performance Measure:**

Approval of the recommended action is related to the following department performance measures: **RPM 0230**, to provide effective mental health care to 4,200 seriously mentally ill adults. It is expected that these physicians will provide services to more than 1,000 adult clients, saving the County \$9,500 per patient average in higher level care costs.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State: Realignement	\$ 250,000.00		
Federal - Medi-Cal	\$ 250,000.00		
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 500,000.00	\$ -	\$ -

**Narrative:**

The CompHealth contract is funded by a combination of Medi-Cal and Realignment. These funding sources are identified in the Adopted FY 2006-07 Budget, Federal and State Revenues line item 4102 – Realignment, Other Charges for Services – Medi-Cal line item 5404 (page D-148 in the County Budget

Book), in the Adult Services Division. The proposed expenditures are included in the FY2006-07 budget for Other Patient Services, Expenditure Line Item Account 7469. Execution of this amendment will not increase the use of general fund dollars by the ADMHS Department.

**Staffing Impacts:**

**Legal Positions:**  
N/A

**FTEs:**  
1

**Special Instructions:**

Please send one (1) fully executed copy of the contract amendment and endorsed minute order to:  
Alcohol, Drug & Mental Health Services  
ATTN: Contract Office  
300 N. San Antonio Road, Bldg. 3  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

**Attachments:**

FY 06/07 Contract for Comphealth

**Authored by:**

Cathy Fox

**cc:**

Douglas C. Barton, Interim Director, ADMHS