

# 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:** 8/25/06  
**Department Name:** Public Health  
**Department No.:** 041  
**Agenda Date:** 9/26/06  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:**  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

---

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Elliot Schulman, MD, MPH, Director and Health Officer  
Public Health Department

**STAFF** Elizabeth Kasehagen, Manager  
**CONTACT:** Children's Medical Services

**SUBJECT:** Professional Services Agreement (CoreMedical Group)

---

## **Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

Authorize the County Executive Officer to approve and execute an Agreement with CoreMedical Group (not a local vendor) to provide licensed medical personnel on a temporary basis at the Medical Therapy Units for the period August 1, 2006 through July 31, 2008 in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.

## **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:**

California Children Services, in accordance with National and State mandates, provides medically prescribed physical and occupational therapy services to physically disabled children who meet the programs eligibility criteria. Therapy personnel provide direct and consultative therapy services to ensure that the County fulfills those mandated services. Like other local health providers, the Public Health Department experiences significant challenges in hiring qualified licensed therapy personnel. This is in part due to a national shortage of occupational and physical therapy staff and the high cost of living in Santa Barbara County. In order to achieve a basic level of therapy services, the Public Health Department contracts with agencies to provide temporary staff to backfill open therapy positions. Currently the program has 4 and  $\frac{3}{4}$  therapy positions open. An average caseload is approximately 50 children. The current openings represent therapy services for approximately 235 physically disabled children.

Your Board is requested to execute an Agreement with CoreMedical Group, a national provider, to provide licensed physical and occupational therapy personnel on a temporary basis at the County's Medical Therapy Units, in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for the period August 1, 2006 through July 31, 2008. Since

March 2006, CoreMedical Group has been providing temporary licensed occupational therapists under a \$99,000 purchasing contract to backfill open therapy positions. Based on the current rate of expenditures, it is anticipated that the vendor will reach the maximum limit of its purchasing contract in August 2006. Approval of this requested Agreement will allow the vendor to continue providing services through July 2008.

The temporary staffing provided through this contract will allow mandated CCS services to be delivered to physically disabled children. This is key to the program's ability to meet the performance measure of providing physical or occupational therapy evaluations within 30 days for 80% of referrals.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

Title V, Part 2 of Social Security Act; California Health and Safety Code, Section 123805; California Administrative Code, Title 17, Sections 2890 through 2906; and California Administrative Code, Title 22.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

This recommendation is already contained within the Department's Fiscal Year 2006-2007 recommended budget; it will not increase the General Fund contribution or use of Special Revenue funds for the Public Health Department.

The State Department of Health (Children's Medical Services/CCS) will reimburse the County 50% of the salary and mileage costs for these positions. The remaining 50% of the direct costs are paid for by a combination of Realignment and required General Fund matching funds. The \$78,150 of indirect costs for this program, which are not recoverable through the grant, are also covered through existing General Fund contribution. The expenditures listed above are included in the Childrens Medical Services budget on page D-180 of the FY 2006-07 budget. The Source of Funds on the same page would also remain unchanged under the Federal & State Revenues line.

This action will not result in the need for any additional facilities.

**Special Instructions:** Please send a copy of the minute order to PHD Contracts Unit, 300 N. San Antonio Road, Bldg 8 ATTN: Dawn McGrew.

**Concurrence:**

None required.