




BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

A-8

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

Department Name: CEO
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: September 15, 2009
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Legislative Program Committee
Contact Info: Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO, 568.3412 
SUBJECT: Resolution of Support for Restoring the Partnership for Health (NACo)

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: Select_Other

As to form: Select_Concurrence

Recommended Actions:

Adopt a "Resolution Supporting Health Reform to Restore the Partnership between Counties and the Federal Government."

Summary Text:

The National Association of Counties (NACo) has been instrumental in advocating for reform of the health system, including restoring the partnership between counties and the federal government. As part of this effort, the organization is requesting counties to support health reform by adopting a resolution that supports NACo's health reform principles. As illustrated in the attachment, the resolution endorses the need for health reform; however, it does not advocate for a specific health care proposal or legislation currently being deliberated by Congress.

On August 21, 2009, the County's Legislative Program Committee, which consists of Supervisor Carbajal (County's NACo Representative), Supervisor Wolf (member of NACo's Health Steering Committee), Auditor-Controller Bob Geis, County Executive Officer Michael F. Brown, and County Counsel Dennis Marshall, voted 5-0 to bring this item to the Board for consideration of support.

Background:

NACo's guiding principles for health reform are articulated in the attachment entitled "*Restoring the Partnership for American Health: Counties in a 21st Century Health System*" and include promoting county partnership; ensuring access and delivery of quality health services to all; focusing on disease and injury prevention, expanding universal health insurance coverage through public systems like Medicare, Medicaid and SCHIP; ensuring a "safety net" for Medicaid; supporting and enhancing a

Resolution Supporting Health Reform to Restore the Partnership between Counties and the Federal Government

September 15, 2009

Page 2 of 2

health professional and paraprofessional workforce; supporting the integration of IT into the health care delivery system; supporting long-term care and community-based services for the elderly and disabled and reforming health care in the jails.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Select_Budgeted

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative: There is no fiscal impact to the County of supporting the resolution. Comprehensive reform of the health system will have fiscal impacts on the County, which are not analyzed as part of this agenda item. Currently, the County incurs costs related to fulfilling health obligations, such as:

- The number of indigent clients receiving mental health services has increased from 1,988 clients in fiscal year 2002-03 to 2,544 clients in fiscal year 2007-08. These 2,544 clients represented about 38% of the open cases. The County's cost of indigent care ranged from \$3.8 million in fiscal year 2002-03 to \$4.6 million in fiscal year 2007-08, and peaked to \$5.5 million in fiscal year 2006-07.
- Public Health provides services to approximately 20,500 patients annually at a cost of \$16 million. The uninsured/underinsured population receives specialty services such as OB/Gynecology orthopedic, infectious disease, surgery, arthritis, diabetes, and dermatology, which are provided by Public Health's primary care and urgent care clinics.
- The Sheriff's Department has budgeted \$4.3 million to provide health-related services to inmates housed within the County jail.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

Special Instructions:

CEO's office (Stephanie Fodor) to send a copy of the adopted resolution to:

1. Senator Boxer
2. Senator Feinstein
3. Representative Capps
4. Representative Gallegly
5. Michael Blake, Deputy Associate Director, Offices of Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement
6. Paul Beddoe, Associate Legislative Director- Health, NACo
7. Tom Walters, Thomas Walters and Associates, Inc

Attachments:

1. Resolution Supporting Health Reform to Restore the Partnership between Counties and the Federal Government
2. National Association of Counties publication entitled "*Restoring the Partnership for American Health: Counties in a 21st Century Health System*"

Authored by:

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CC:

Michele Mickiewicz, Interim Director, Public Health
Anne Detrick, Director, ADMHS
Bill Brown, Sheriff