



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: Sheriff
Department No.: 032
For Agenda Of: 05/8/2018
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item:
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Sheriff B. Brown (805) 681-4290
Director
Contact Info: Chief V. Wasilewski (805) 681-4246
SUBJECT: Medi-Cal County Inmate Program Agreement with California for Eligible Inmates

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

- a) Approve and authorize the Sheriff, or his designee, to sign the Medi-Cal County Inmate Program Agreement with the California Department of Health Care Services for Medi-Cal reimbursements for eligible inmates with a term of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019; and
- b) Determine that the above recommended action is not subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines because the action consists of a government funding mechanism.

Summary Text:

The Affordable Care Act allows providers to receive payment from Medi-Cal for services related to the healthcare and mental healthcare of inmates held in the custody of the Sheriff and treated outside of the facility. The program designed by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is the Medi-Cal County Inmate Program (MCIP). This agreement will allow DHCS to pay providers directly for covered services and bill the Sheriff's Office for any gaps between what Medi-Cal covers and what is reimbursed to DHCS by Medicare.

Background:

When inmates in the custody of the Sheriff need medical attention outside the confines of the jail facilities, they are evacuated to an appropriate location to receive treatment. The MCIP is intended to offset the costs to local government when treatments require admission to any off sight healthcare facility. Participation in MCIP allows Cottage Hospital, who is a Designated Public Hospital (DPH) that can claim through the

certified public expenditure (CPE) process, or other Medi-Cal providers to eligible inmates be paid the entire claim directly by DHCS, who in turn will seek reimbursement through Medi-Cal FFP and charge the County the balance (non-FFP). The Medi-Cal benefit will result in significant savings ranging from \$100,000 to \$200,000 annually.

If approved, the Sheriff will continue to coordinate with the Department of Social Services and Cottage Hospital to process MCIP eligibility of inmates. DHCS will charge a very low administrative fee to cover its cost, which is estimated not to exceed \$4,290.29 for the full fiscal year 2018-19. This amount could change depending on the number of counties participating in the program. In addition, the contracts set payment to DHCS for the County's non-FFP at not-to-exceed amounts of \$300,000 for FY 2018-19. In total, the maximum payable amounts by the County shall not exceed \$304,291 for FY 2018-19.

Attachment C is a policy and procedure letter from DHCS that explains the MCIP and gives guidance to Counties that are voluntarily signing up for the program. It is a valuable reference that will help in understanding the way to receive the MCIP's benefits.

This is a renewal of the FY2017-18 agreement and we recommend you approve and authorize the Sheriff to sign the two attached contracts between the County of Santa Barbara, and State of California, DHCS, for the processing and administration of Medi-Cal claims under the MCIP for the time-period of fiscal year 2018-2019.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Included in proposed FY2018-19 budget

Narrative: This agreement will create an additional payment source for overnight hospital visits for Medi-Cal eligible inmates. In FY 2015-16, Sheriff's Department paid \$550,000 for in-patient health care. The County would be responsible for the non-federal share of cost which could be \$300,000 and administrative charges to the State of California of \$4,291. This could result in annualized savings of approximately \$250,000.

Special Instructions:

Attachments:

- A. MEDI-CAL COUNTY INMATE PROGRAM AGREEMENT
- B. ADDENDUM D: Medi-Cal County Inmate Program (MCIP) FY 2018-19 Agreement County Certification Form
- C. MEDI-CAL COUNTY INMATE PROGRAM – COUNTY PARTICIPATION GUIDANCE LETTER

Authored by:
Vincent Wasilewski, Chief Custody Deputy