



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:** Public Health  
**Department No.:** 041  
**For Agenda Of:** March 12, 2013  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Tme:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Takashi Wada, MD, MPH Director/Health Officer  
Director(s) Public Health Department  
Contact Info: Nancy Lapolla, MPH (681-5264)  
Emergency Medical Services Agency Director

**SUBJECT:** Revenue Agreement with Marian Regional Medical Center for Level III Trauma Center Designation Application

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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:**

That the Board of Supervisors consider the following recommendations:

- A) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute a Revenue Agreement with Marian Regional Medical Center (MRMC) for the period beginning March 12, 2013 through June 30, 2013, for services provided in the application process for Level III Trauma Center designation.
- B) Determine that these activities are exempt from California Environmental Quality Act review per CEQA Guideline Section 15061(b)(3), since it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activities may have a significant effect on the environment

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda to execute a Revenue Agreement that will allow the Public Health Department (PHD) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency to recover the costs of hiring a trauma program consultant and providing administration services to MRMC in their application for designation as a Level III Trauma Center.

Traumatic injuries remain the leading cause of death for individuals under 45 years of age in the United States. MRMC has requested that the EMS Agency begin the process to designate the hospital as a Level III Trauma Center. MRMC has expressed its intent to develop a trauma program that meets the

regulatory requirements of a Level III Trauma Center in order to provide an organized response to patients with traumatic injuries.

Health and Safety Code Division 2.5, Section 1798.165, grants the County EMS Agency the authority to designate trauma facilities as part of their trauma care system pursuant to the regulations promulgated by the State of California EMS Authority. Hospitals are designated to provide only the level of trauma care and services for which they are qualified and are within the system implemented by the County EMS Agency. Trauma center designation requires that hospitals have the equipment, staff and resources necessary to meet the medical needs of injured patients. There are four levels of trauma center designation: Level I, II, III and IV. Level I and II trauma centers are the highest level and have similar personnel, services and resource requirements to care for the most critically injured patients. The greatest difference being that Level I trauma centers are research and teaching facilities. Level I and II pediatric trauma centers focus specifically on pediatric trauma patients. Level III and IV trauma centers generally provide initial stabilization of trauma patients with the greatest difference being that general trauma surgical capabilities are provided at Level III trauma centers.

The EMS Agency is required to develop a process to evaluate each hospital's trauma program to ensure it meets the specific regulatory requirements of its designated level according to California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 7, Trauma Care System. As part of this process, to ensure MRMC is meeting the requirements for a level III trauma center, the EMS Agency will contract with a trauma surgeon who has extensive experience evaluating hospitals for compliance with California trauma center regulations. The contracted trauma surgeon will reside outside of the county to ensure an independent evaluation. The Agreement in Recommendation A) with MRMC will provide \$20,000 to the County's EMS Agency for services associated with the application for designation.

If MRMC's application and on-site evaluation are determined to be satisfactory and meet the criteria for a Level III Trauma Center, the EMS Agency will designate MRMC as a Level III Trauma Center and will return to the Board with a service agreement for that designation.

**Background:**

In 1999, the Board approved Santa Barbara County's Trauma System Plan based on the State Trauma System regulations. The Plan provides a framework for the establishment of a formalized, inclusive system of care for injured patients. The goal of an inclusive trauma system is to encourage all hospitals to participate and be designated at the appropriate level that reflects the resources and capacities of the facility. In 1999, MRMC was not able to participate in the designation process to be a trauma center. Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital was designated in 2001 as a Level II adult trauma center. Since the completion of MRMC's new hospital in 2011, they have taken steps to develop a trauma program that meets the designation regulatory requirements for a Level III trauma center.

The EMS Agency has worked with county hospitals and EMS providers to establish trauma specific policies, procedures and performance improvement processes to ensure a high quality trauma system for Santa Barbara County. If the application process for MRMC indicates that the hospital meets the standards for Level III Trauma Center designation, this needed resource will be added to the County's trauma system.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: No

**Fiscal Analysis:**

Under this Agreement, MRMC agrees to pay \$20,000 for services provided by the EMS Agency for administration of the application process. There are no General Fund resources associated with this Agreement. Once approved by your Board, PHD will return with the necessary budget revision to add the FY 2012-13 services fee to the County's Adjusted Budget. PHD's FY 2012-13 Adopted Budget can be found in the County's Operating Plan Document on page D-104.

**Staffing Impacts:**

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

**Special Instructions:**

Please return one (1) executed original Agreement for Services with Marian Regional Medical Center and one copy of the Minute Order to the PHD Contracts Unit at 300 N. San Antonio Road, Bldg 8, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**Attachments:** Professional Services Agreement with Marian Regional Medical Center

**Authored by:**

Nancy Lapolla, MPH, Director, Emergency Medical Services Agency, 681-5264