



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: July 14, 2020
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Sheriff's Office Sheriff Bill Brown (Ext. 14290)
Contact Info: Lieutenant Shawn T. Lammer (Ext. 14252)
SUBJECT: Medi-Cal County Inmate Program Agreement with California for Eligible Inmates

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

Risk Management: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve, authorize, and ratify the Sheriff, or his designee, to sign the Medi-Cal County Inmate Program Agreement (#20-10243) with the California Department of Health Care Services for Medi-Cal reimbursements for eligible inmates with a term of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023 in an amount not to exceed \$14,237.00; 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 when determined eligible. 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. In other words, MCIP makes federal financial participation (FFP) available for medical care provided to Medi-Cal eligible county inmates. The County of Santa Barbara receives budgetary savings because it does not fund the federal share of MCIP services for their Medi-Cal eligible inmates.

Background:

When inmates in the custody of the Sheriff need medical attention outside the confines of the jail facilities, they are taken to the appropriate location to receive treatment. MCIP is intended to offset the costs to local government when treatments require admission to any offsite healthcare facility. For instance, 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 directly bill DHCS for MCIP services and DHCS will reimburse the Medi-Cal providers at their applicable Medi-Cal rate for the services rendered, to the extent FFP is available. In turn DHCS will seek reimbursement through Medi-Cal FFP and charge the County the balance (non-FFP). The Medi-Cal benefit will likely result in significant savings ranging from \$100,000 to \$200,000 annually depending on qualified medical services billed.

If approved, the Sheriff will continue to coordinate with the Department of Social Services and Cottage Hospital (as well as other providers) to process MCIP eligibility of inmates. DHCS will charge a very low administrative fee to cover its cost, which is estimated not to exceed \$4,516.10 for the full fiscal year 2020-21 with increases for the two subsequent fiscal years. The administrative fees are split between the counties that participate, based on county population statistics.

Attachment A is the agreement 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 FY2019-20 agreement and we recommend you approve and authorize the Sheriff to sign the agreement 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 years 2020-21 through 2022-23.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted:

Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Budgeted: Included in the FY2020-21 budget and will be included in future budgets through FY2022-23.

Narrative: This agreement will create an additional payment source for overnight hospital visits for Medi-Cal eligible inmates. In FY 2015-16, Sheriff’s Office paid \$550,000 for in-patient health care. The County would be responsible for the non-federal share of cost which is significantly lower than the amount billed by medical providers as well as administrative charges to the State of California of \$4,352.14. This could result in annualized savings of approximately \$250,000.

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY (20-21) Cost:</u>	<u>FY21-22 Cost:</u>	<u>FY 22-23 Cost:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
General Fund	\$4,516.10	\$4,741.90	\$4,979.00	\$14,237.00
State				
Federal				
Fees				
Other:				
Total	\$ 4,516.10	\$ 4,741.90	\$ 4,979.00	\$ 14,237.00

Special Instructions:

Clerk of the Board: Please send one official Minute Order to the Sheriff's Office, Attention Shawn T. Lammer.

Attachments:

Attachment A: County of Santa Barbara Medi-Cal County Inmate Program Agreement 20-10243

Authored by:

Shawn T. Lammer, Lieutenant
County of Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office
Custody Support Division, Contract Management