



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Health System



Date: August 3, 2012
Board Meeting Date: August 28, 2012
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Jean S. Fraser, Chief, Health System
Susan Ehrlich, MD, MPP, Chief Executive Officer, San Mateo Medical Center

Subject: Agreement with Marsha Bluto, MD

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution authorizing an agreement with Marsha Bluto, MD to provide physiatry services for the term September 1, 2012 through August 31, 2013 in the amount of \$179,280.

BACKGROUND:

For many years musculoskeletal clinic and physical medicine (physiatry) services were provided at San Mateo Medical Center (SMMC) by Remedy Medical Group (Remedy). In July 2010 Remedy ceased to provide those services. The main purpose of the physiatry clinic was to diagnose and treat patients with complex musculoskeletal pain syndromes and to triage referrals to the orthopedic surgery and neurosurgery services. With the departure of Remedy and the resulting backlog of patients needing non-surgical orthopedic services, the need for better coordination of physiatry, neurosurgery, orthopedic and physical therapy services was emphasized.

On September 13, 2011, your Board approved an agreement with Dr. Marsha Bluto to provide direct physiatry clinical services. She developed the infrastructure for a Department of Physical Medicine and provided direction for the San Mateo Medical Center (SMMC) Physical and Occupational Therapy Department. She put a physical therapy manager in place and developed Rehabilitation Medicine protocols.

In July 2011 there were 567 patients waiting for orthopedic services. She assessed these patients to determine if they required surgery, physical therapy or physiatry and directed them to the appropriate department. In May 2012 there were 46 patients waiting for orthopedic services. She has significantly reduced the patient backlog.

DISCUSSION:

Under this new agreement, Dr. Bluto will continue to provide psychiatry services to the patients of SMMC. She will continue to provide direct psychiatry clinical services three days per week and direction for the Physical and Occupational Therapy Department.

County Administrative Memorandum B-1 provides that contracts for physicians are exempt from the Request for Proposals process.

SMMC also requests that your Board authorize the Chief of the Health System or designee to execute contract amendments which modify the County's maximum fiscal obligation by no more than \$25,000 (in aggregate), and/or modify the contract term and/or services so long as the modified term or services is/are within the current or revised fiscal provisions.

The agreement and Resolution have been reviewed and approved by County Counsel as to form. The contractor's insurance meets insurance certification requirements.

The Contractor has assured compliance with the County's Contractor Employee Jury Service Ordinance, as well as all other contract provisions that are required by County ordinance and administrative memoranda, including but not limited to insurance, hold harmless, non-discrimination and equal benefits.

This Agreement contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Healthy Community by providing basic psychiatry services to the patients at SMMC. Providing access to psychiatry services will avoid unnecessary referrals to orthopedics thereby reducing the number of patients waiting for orthopedic services. It is anticipated that the backlog of patients waiting for orthopedic services will be reduced by an additional 25%.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE(S):

Measure	FY 2011-12 Actual	FY 2012-13 Projected
Percentage of reduction in number of patients waiting for orthopedic services	92%	25%

FISCAL IMPACT:

The term of this Agreement is September 1, 2012 through August 31, 2013. The maximum amount of the Agreement is \$179,280. The payment provisions and levels of service are essentially the same as the prior contract. Funds in the amount of \$149,400 are included in the SMMC FY 2012-13 Recommended Budget. Funds in the amount of \$29,880 will be included in the SMMC FY 2013-14 Recommended Budget.

Expenses at SMMC are covered by fees for services or third-party payors whenever possible. The portion of expenses for services provided to the medically indigent or to those covered by programs that do not meet the full costs of care are covered by the County's General Fund contribution to SMMC, and are within the existing annual appropriation.