



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Inter-Departmental Correspondence  
Health System



**Date:** September 13, 2012  
**Board Meeting Date:** October 23, 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:** Amendment to an agreement with Howard Belfer, MD

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a Resolution authorizing an amendment to the agreement with Howard Belfer, MD, to provide neurology services, increasing the amount by \$82,125 to \$457,125.

**BACKGROUND:**

On April 12, 2011, your Board approved an agreement with Howard Belfer, MD to provide neurology services at San Mateo Medical Center (SMMC) for the term April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2014, in an amount not to exceed \$375,000. Under this agreement, Dr. Belfer provides clinic services, test interpretation and call coverage for neurology. Dr. Belfer works with another neurologist, Dr. Michael Siegel, to provide 24/7 call coverage for the neurology patients of SMMC.

**DISCUSSION:**

Previously, Drs. Belfer and Siegel have been able to engage community neurologists for call coverage at no cost to the County. Recently, however, those community neurologists have expressed an unwillingness to continue this arrangement. In order to continue mandated call coverage, these physicians have requested compensation on a par with the other hospitals in San Mateo County. Neurology 24/7 coverage is necessary to provide safe, effective and timely care in the Emergency Department. The addition of \$82,125 to this contract would bring it into line with other contracts providing 24/7 call coverage at SMMC. The agreement with Dr. Siegel is also being presented at this Board meeting.

The amendment and Resolution have been reviewed and approved by County Counsel as to form.

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 amendment contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Healthy Community by providing basic neurology services to the patients at SMMC. It is anticipated that no patients will be referred to other area hospitals due to a lack of neurology call coverage.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURE(S):**

Measure	FY 2011-12 Actual	FY 2012-13 Projected
Percentage of patients referred to other area hospitals due to lack of neurology call coverage at SMMC	0	0

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The term of this agreement is April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2014. The maximum amount of the agreement is \$457,125. Funds in the amount of \$125,000 were included in the SMMC FY 2011-12 Adopted Budget. Funds in the amount of \$166,063 are included in the SMMC FY 2012-13 Recommended Budget. Similar arrangements will be made for future budget years.

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.