



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



**Date:** January 4, 2013  
**Board Meeting Date:** February 12, 2013  
**Special Notice / Hearing:** None  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**From:** Jean S. Fraser, Chief, Health System  
Louise Rogers, Deputy Chief, Health System

**Subject:** Donations to the SMART Program

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a Resolution accepting donations totaling \$128,000 for the SMART Program for FY 2012-13.

**BACKGROUND:**

The San Mateo County Mental Assessment and Referral Team (SMART) Program was developed by the Health System and AMR in 2005. SMART provides a specially trained paramedic response to 911 emergency requests for individuals experiencing behavioral emergencies who would otherwise be transported by police car or ambulance. The SMART paramedic is trained to de-escalate behavioral health crises and transport clients in a specially equipped SUV which is less intimidating for the client than a police car. The SMART paramedic provides medical clearance in the field, facilitates appropriate referral and resolution, and reduces the time spent by local law enforcement on these cases. Since the program's inception 4,254 San Mateo County residents have been served, fewer than 373 (8.8%) more than once. At least 18% either are not transported after medical clearance, evaluation and intervention in the field, or they are transported to an appropriate service/housing provider. Prior to SMART, all would have been transported by ambulance to an emergency department or by police to jail. The more costly ambulance ride would have been \$1,746 versus \$574 for SMART.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Health System has received the following donations or commitments to donate specifically designated to help offset the cost of the SMART Program: \$60,000 from the Sequoia Healthcare District, \$40,000 from the Peninsula Healthcare District, \$18,000 from the San Mateo County Police Chiefs and Sheriff's Association, and \$10,000 from the Kaiser Community Benefit Foundation.

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

Approval of these donations contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Healthy Community by improving emergency services provided to people having behavioral emergencies. It is anticipated that 35% of behavioral emergency calls will be handled by the SMART vehicle.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURE(S):**

<b>Measure</b>	<b>FY 2011-12 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2012-13 Projected</b>
Percent of EMS responses to behavioral emergencies by AMR "SMART" vehicle.	35%	35%

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The total amount of the donations is \$128,000, which is 34% of the total \$378,440 annual budgeted cost of the SMART program. The balance is funded primarily with Mental Health Services Act and Medi-Cal (MAA) funding. These are included in the Behavioral Health and Recovery Services FY 2012-13 Adopted Budget, and will be used to partially offset the cost of the SMART program. There is no Net County Cost.