



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



**Date:** July 23, 2013  
**Board Meeting Date:** September 10, 2013  
**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 of September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2014, in an amount not to exceed \$272,000.

**BACKGROUND:**

In July 2010 Dr. Marsha Bluto began providing a musculoskeletal clinic and physical medicine (physiatry) services for San Mateo Medical Center (SMMC). The main purpose of the physiatry clinic is to diagnose and treat patients with complex musculoskeletal pain syndromes and to triage referrals to orthopedic surgery and neurosurgery services. The screening/triage process ensures only surgical patients are referred to orthopedics and neurosurgery and physical medicine patients are treated non-surgically. Many of these patients are in need of other non-surgical treatments such as pain injections or physical therapy. As a result, more patients are being seen in a shorter amount of time, both surgically and non-surgically.

Dr. Bluto and her associates have provided for a better coordination of physiatry, neurosurgery, orthopedic, and physical therapy services. During the past year, Dr. Bluto developed the infrastructure for a Department of Physical Medicine and provided direction for the SMMC Physical and Occupational Therapy Department. She led the team to develop the organizational structure and put a physical therapy manager in place and developed Rehabilitation Medicine protocols. In addition, she has initiated a program of inpatient consults and expanded the capability of providing epidural injections.

**DISCUSSION:**

Under this new agreement, Dr. Bluto will continue to provide physiatry services to the patients of SMMC. She will continue to provide direct physiatry clinical services for up to five days per week and provide medical 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.

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

SMMC is also asking the Board to 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) for each agreement 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 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.

The agreement contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Healthy Community by providing basic physiatry services to the patients at SMMC. Providing access to physiatry services will provide more expedient service to patients with non-surgical needs which will allow surgical patients to be seen more quickly 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 2012-13 Actual	FY 2013-14 Projected
Percentage of reduction in number of patients waiting for orthopedic services	25%	25%

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The term of the agreement is September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2014. The amount of the agreement is not to exceed \$272,000 for the one-year term. The Net County Cost is \$272,000. Funds in the amount of \$226,667 are included in the SMMC FY 2013-14 Recommended Budget. Funds in the amount of \$45,333 will be included in the SMMC FY 2014-15 Recommended Budget. The payment provisions and levels of service in this contract are essentially the same as the prior contract.

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.