



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Health System



Date: June 10, 2014
Board Meeting Date: July 15, 2014
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Jean S. Fraser, Chief, Health System
Iliana Rodriguez, Agency Director, Human Services Agency
Greg Munks, Sheriff

Subject: Designation of Correctional Health Services as the Entity to Assist County Inmates with Applications for Health Insurance Affordability Programs

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution designating Correctional Health Services as the entity to act on behalf of County inmates with applications for health insurance affordability programs.

BACKGROUND:

As part of California's implementation of the Affordable Care Act, the state legislature passed AB 720, which added Penal Code section 4011.11 and amended Welfare and Institutions Code section 14011.10 to address specific provisions related to connecting county jail inmates to health insurance coverage. AB 720 took effect on January 1, 2014.

This law authorizes county boards of supervisors, in consultation with county sheriffs, to designate an entity to (1) assist county jail inmates with their applications for publicly subsidized health insurance programs, and (2) act on inmates' behalf to apply for Medi-Cal coverage for offsite acute inpatient hospital services.

DISCUSSION:

Insurance policies generally exclude coverage of medical or behavioral healthcare services provided while a policyholder is incarcerated. However, under AB 720, San Mateo County (County) can pursue Medi-Cal coverage for the cost of these services for any eligible inmate who successfully enrolls in Medi-Cal. Correctional Health Services (CHS), the Sheriff's Office, and the Human Services Agency have together designed and implemented a process to pursue Medi-Cal eligibility for any inmate requiring inpatient hospitalization.

AB 720 further allows your Board to designate a County entity to act on inmates' behalf for the purposes of completing a Medi-Cal application. Specifically, this provision allows designated County staff to provide necessary demographic information and sign a Medi-Cal application on behalf of the inmate when he/she is not able to complete the process on his/her own. The Sheriff's Office, the Human Services Agency and CHS agree that CHS is best suited to perform these responsibilities on inmates' behalf, given the role that CHS staff play in arranging for any inpatient hospitalization services required during an inmate's incarceration. As such, our three agencies are requesting that your Board designate CHS to act on behalf of County inmates for Medi-Cal enrollment purposes.

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

Approval of this Resolution contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Healthy Community by pursuing federal and state reimbursement through the Medi-Cal program for inpatient hospitalization services provided to eligible inmates. Designating CHS to act on inmates' behalf for the purposes of Medi-Cal enrollment strengthens the County's ability to submit completed applications for inmates requiring hospitalization, particularly when an inmate is not able to complete such an application on her/his own. It is anticipated that 10 inmates will apply for Medi-Cal while incarcerated.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE(S):

Measure	FY 2013-14 Estimated	FY 2014-15 Projected
Number of inmates that will apply for Medi-Cal	0	10

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no Net County Cost, as the responsibilities for assisting with Medi-Cal enrollment will be carried out by CHS staff as authorized within the division's existing budget. Because the claiming protocol for providers to bill Medi-Cal for these services has not been finalized, the timing of this provision's potential financial benefits is unclear; CHS will update its assumptions as implementation of this provision proceeds at both the local and state levels.