



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



**Date:** March 31, 2015  
**Board Meeting Date:** May 19, 2015  
**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 Michael Aratow, MD for Chief Medical Information Officer Services

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a resolution authorizing an agreement with Michael Aratow, MD to provide Chief Medical Information Officer services for the term July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, in an amount not to exceed \$225,500.

**BACKGROUND:**

To ensure effective information technology (IT) decision-making, in 2007 the San Mateo Medical Center (SMMC) developed a long range Information Technology Strategic Plan (ITSP). Following the recommendation of the ITSP to add a Chief Medical Information Officer (CMIO) to provide critical physician input in IT decisions, the SMMC Executive Management Team (EMT) and the County's Information Services Department (ISD) selected Dr. Michael Aratow to serve as the CMIO. Since assuming the role of CMIO, Dr. Aratow has provided leadership at SMMC by serving as the primary clinician stakeholder in clinical IT projects, including selection and implementation of an Ambulatory Electronic Medical Record (AEMR) and the Inpatient Electronic Medical Record (Soarian). In 2014, Dr. Aratow became Board Certified in Clinical Informatics.

**DISCUSSION:**

Dr. Aratow continues to demonstrate a unique ability to balance the perspectives of IT professionals and clinicians, resulting in significant progress in the area of clinical application, development and acceptance. In addition, the role of CMIO has proven to be critical as the Health System positions itself to meet the changes required by the Federal Health Architecture to assure seamless interchange of health data.

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

The resolution contains the County's standard provisions allowing amendment of the County's fiscal obligations by a maximum of \$25,000 (in aggregate).

The agreement and resolution have been reviewed and approved by County Counsel as to form.

The agreement contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Healthy Community by ensuring effective planning and preparation is done in support of Health Information Technology projects. It is anticipated that 90% of medium and large IT projects will be completed on time.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURE:**

Measure	FY 2014-15 Estimated	FY 2015-16 Projected
Percent of medium and large IT projects completed on time	90%	90%

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The term of this agreement is July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. The amount of the agreement is not to exceed \$225,500 for the one-year term. Funds in the amount of \$225,500 are included in the SMMC FY 2015-16 Recommended Budget.

The terms of this agreement differ from the terms of the prior agreement because Dr. Aratow's hourly rate has increased by 7%, which is in line with the compensation benchmarking performed by SMMC.

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 fully meet the costs of care is covered by the County's General Fund contribution to SMMC, and are within the existing annual appropriation.