



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Health System



Date: July 10, 2014
Board Meeting Date: September 9, 2014
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, a Professional Corporation

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution authorizing an agreement with Marsha Bluto, MD, a Professional Corporation, to provide physiatry services for the term of September 1, 2014 through August 31, 2015, in an amount not to exceed \$310,000.

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. This screen/triage process ensures that only surgical patients are referred to orthopedics and neurosurgery, while physical medicine patients are treated non-surgically. Many of the physical medicine 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 worked to better coordinate physiatry, neurosurgery, orthopedic and physical therapy services at SMMC.

DISCUSSION:

Dr. Bluto will continue to provide physiatry services to the patients of SMMC. She and a second provider will increase the number of physiatry clinical services from three to six days per week and she will provide medical guidance for the Physical and Occupational Therapy Departments.

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 approval of this agreement contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Healthy Community by providing basic physiatry services to SMMC patients. These physiatry services 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 – already significantly reduced in FY 2013-14 as a result of Dr. Bluto's services - will be reduced by an additional 10%.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE(S):

Measure	FY 2013-14 Actual	FY 2014-15 Projected
Percentage of reduction in number of patients waiting for orthopedic services	25%	10%

FISCAL IMPACT:

The term of the agreement is September 1, 2014 through August 31, 2015. The amount of the agreement is not to exceed \$310,000 for the one year term. Funds in the amount of \$232,500 are included in the SMMC FY 2014-15 Recommended Budget. Funds in the amount of \$77,500 will be included in the SMMC FY 2015-16 Recommended Budget. The payment provisions of the contract are different from the prior contract because of (1) a 19% reduction in the Medical Group Management Association median pay rate upon which Dr. Bluto's pay is based; and (2) an increase in the number of daily clinics per week. Ultimately, the total amount of this contract represents a 14% increase compared to the previous 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.