



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Health System



Date: June 24, 2015
Board Meeting Date: August 4, 2015
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Louise Rogers, Chief, Health System
Susan Ehrlich, MD, MPP, Chief Executive Officer, San Mateo Medical Center

Subject: Agreement with Maureen Dudgeon, MD for Palliative and Hospice Care Services

RECOMMENDATION:

Resolution authorizing an agreement with Maureen Dudgeon, MD to provide palliative and hospice care services for the term of September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2017, in an amount not to exceed \$460,000.

BACKGROUND:

Palliative care offers pain and symptom management, as well as emotional and spiritual support, for patients who face a chronic, debilitating or life-threatening illness. The palliative care specialist works with the patient, their family and the care team to help improve quality of life during and after treatment for specific medical concerns. The care services are provided in tandem with life-prolonging therapies.

Since 2007, Dr. Alpa Sanghavi has provided palliative and hospice medical services to the patients of San Mateo Medical Center. In September 2014, Dr. Sanghavi accepted the position of Chief, Quality and Experience Officer at SMMC. In March 2015, Dr. Maureen Dudgeon began providing palliative and hospice care services at San Mateo Medical Center.

DISCUSSION:

Dr. Dudgeon will continue to provide palliative and hospice care services while also assuming the role of Medical Director, Inpatient Palliative and Hospice Medicine. As Dr. Dudgeon has been providing palliative and hospice care services at San Mateo Medical Center (SMMC) and is familiar with our population, policies and procedures, this contract allows her to continue as a seamless replacement for Dr. Sanghavi.

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 providing access to palliative/hospice care services to County residents. Palliative care supports patients in making thoughtful decisions regarding care for late stage disease. These decisions and plans for ongoing care are agreed to in the form of a written "Goals of Care." It is anticipated that more than 50% of all palliative/hospice care patients discharged from inpatient service will have "Goals of Care" completed by discharge or within 7 days of discharge.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE(S):

Measure	FY 2014-15 Actual	FY 2015-16 Projected
Percent of palliative/hospice care patients discharged from inpatient service who will have "Goals-of-Care" completed by discharge or within 7 days of discharge	<20%	>50%

FISCAL IMPACT:

The term of the agreement is September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2017. The amount of the agreement is not to exceed \$460,000 for the two-year term. Funds in the amount of \$191,667 are included in the SMMC FY 2015-16 Adopted Budget. Similar arrangements will be made for future years.

The payment provisions of the contract are different from the prior contract because the previous contract required the contractor to be on site 3 partial days per week as requested. This contract requires the contractor to be on-site 40 hours per week (5 days) and to provide hands-on direction/training for SMMC staff. In addition, the contractor will assume the duties of Medical Director, Inpatient Palliative and Hospice Medicine. The rate of pay for this contract is based on 2014 rates established by the 2014 Medical Group Management Association, which SMMC uses to benchmark all of its provider contracts.

Expenses at SMMC are covered by fees for services or third-party payors whenever possible. The portions 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.