



Health Services
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

April 7, 2009

Los Angeles County
Board of Supervisors

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Interim Director

Robert G. Splawn, MD
Interim Chief Medical Officer

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT FOR TEMPORARY
MEDICAL PERSONNEL SERVICES – CERTIFIED REGISTERED
NURSE ANESTHETISTS
(ALL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request approval to extend the Agreements with United Anesthesia Associates, Inc. and Nurse Connection, Inc. for temporary medical personnel services.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Approve and instruct the Interim Director of Health Services (Interim Director), or his designee, to execute Amendment No. 4 to the Temporary Medical Personnel Services Agreements with United Anesthesia, Inc., Agreement No. H-211818, and Nurse Connection, Inc., Agreement No. H-211768, to extend the contract terms effective May 1, 2009 through October 31, 2011, with a two-year option exercisable by your Board, for the continued provision of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) services at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center (Harbor), High Desert Health System (HDHS), LAC+USC Healthcare Network (LAC+USC) and Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center (Rancho) (herein collectively referred to as "County health facilities"), at an estimated annual cost of \$1,953,580.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended action will allow the Department of Health Services (DHS) to execute an amendment, substantially similar to Exhibit I, to extend the term of the Agreements, making them co-terminous with the Department's Temporary Nursing Personnel Services Agreements, to provide uninterrupted critical services to the patients served by the Department at County health facilities.

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HDHS reports that they are having difficulty recruiting and retaining qualified personnel to perform these necessary patient care-related services. HDHS operates an Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC), with two operating rooms and a third room for invasive special procedures, such as colonoscopies. The facility's anesthesia department, which supports the ASC, is currently short two out of three staff in this area. Having had no success in recruiting experienced and qualified staff since 2008, HDHS has utilized registry CRNA's in order to avoid a significant decrease in the ASC's surgical capacity. Authorizing the extension of these Agreements will allow HDHS to maintain full surgical capacity while it addresses this critical staffing shortage.

Rancho reports that it has an increasing need for registry CRNA services, as the demand for surgical services has increased at this facility. The increased need for surgical services has outpaced Rancho's ability to recruit qualified personnel. On July 31, 2007, Rancho began utilizing a fourth operating room (OR) to accommodate surgeries for Martin Luther King, Jr. Multi-service Ambulatory Care Center (MLK MACC) patients that require inpatient stays, generally for ear, nose and throat, gynecology, and general surgery, which typically require one to five day admission in the hospital for post-operative care. Use steadily increased to what is now two days per week. In addition, as of October 2008, this OR is now used two additional days per week to assist other DHS facilities with backlog in performing patient general surgeries.

Harbor reports that it has an increasing need for registry CRNA services as well, as demands for surgeries have increased, while recruitment and retention of qualified personnel has been very difficult. From 2005 through 2008, Harbor has seen the number of surgeries performed go up from 9,155 to 9,963, an 8.8 percent increase. This is an average increase of 2.2 surgical procedures per day. As a result of these increases in procedure volume, Harbor has expanded its OR hours, keeping them open later into the night, referring outpatient surgeries (generally gall bladder and hernia cases) to Rancho, and has plans to schedule surgeries on Saturdays.

Due to this increased demand and usage, DHS is recommending approval of this amendment while DHS completes its Department-wide assessment of temporary medical personnel services agreements, outlined below.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goal

The recommended actions support Goal 4, Health and Mental Health of the County's Strategic Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Compensation to the contractors is at a set hourly rate for hours worked. The current rates were set in 2004 and will remain the same during the agreement extension period.

The estimated annual cost for CRNA services, effective date of Board approval, is \$1,953,580. Funding is included in the Department's Fiscal Year (FY) 2008-09 Final Budget, has been requested in the 2009-10 Proposed Budget and in the future fiscal years.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

United Anesthesia, Inc. and Nurse Connection, Inc. have provided CRNA services under County contracts since 1990 and 1995, respectively.

On September 26, 2000, the current Agreements were approved by your Board which continued the provision of CRNA services at DHS facilities.

On September 20, 2005, Amendment No. 2 to the Agreements was approved by your Board, extending the term of the Agreements through September 30, 2006.

On August 29, 2006, Amendment No. 3 to the Agreements was approved by your Board, extending the term of the Agreements through April 30, 2009.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved Exhibit I as to use and form.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

On September 26, 2000, your Board approved the current Agreements for the provision of CRNA services at DHS facilities to address the service needs of County patients. The term of these Agreements were extended through the amendment process, with approvals from your Board on September 20, 2005 and August 29, 2006. The recommended amendments are necessary for the continued provision of CRNA services to address the service needs of County patients.

The Department is currently reviewing and assessing all of the temporary medical personnel services agreements department wide in an effort to consolidate and standardize the contracting process. During the extension period, the Department will be returning to your Board with recommendations for all of the Agreements going forward.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
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It is not appropriate to advertise amendments on Los Angeles County's online website as a contracting opportunity.

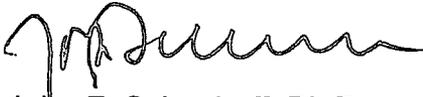
IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Board approval of the recommended amendment to the agreement will ensure the continued provision of critical CRNA services to the patients served at DHS facilities.

CONCLUSION

When approved, DHS requires three signed copies of the Board's action.

Respectfully submitted,



John F. Schunhoff, Ph.D.
Interim Director

JFS:ja

Attachment

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

CRNA BL

Contract No. _____

**TEMPORARY MEDICAL PERSONNEL SERVICES AGREEMENT
(Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist)**

AMENDMENT NO. 4

THIS AMENDMENT is made and entered into this _____ day
of _____, 2009,

by and between COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES (hereafter
"County").

and _____
(hereafter "Contractor").

WHEREAS, reference is made to that certain document entitled "TEMPORARY
MEDICAL PERSONNEL SERVICES AGREEMENT (Certified Registered Nurse
Anesthetist)", dated _____, and any Amendments thereto, all further
identified as County Agreement No. H-_____, all hereafter referred to as
"Agreement"; and

WHEREAS, each medical facility listed in the Agreement shall retain professional
and administrative responsibility for the services provided to its facility under this
Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Agreement provides that changes to its provisions may be made in
the form of a written amendment which is formally approved and executed by both
parties.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties hereby agree as follows:

1. This Amendment shall become effective May 1, 2009.
2. Paragraph 1, TERM, first paragraph, is revised to read as follows:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles has caused this Amendment to be subscribed by its Director of Health Services and Contractor has caused this Amendment to be subscribed in its behalf by its duly authorized officers, the day, month, and year first above written.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

By _____
John F. Schunhoff, Ph.D.
Interim Director

Contractor

By _____
Signature

Printed Name

Title _____
(AFFIX CORPORATE SEAL HERE)

APPROVED AS TO FORM
BY THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL
RAYMOND G. FORTNER, JR.
County Counsel

APPROVED AS TO CONTRACT
ADMINISTRATION:

Department of Health Services
Contracts and Grants Division

AMEND.JCA
3/6/09