

AMENDMENT TO #23: CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATION 3.3.1 – MEDICAL HUBS

The Departments of Health Services(DHS) and Children and Family Services (DCFS) operate six Medical Hubs throughout the County. Primary Medical Hub Services include initial medical exams for children entering the child welfare system; mental health screening; and forensic medical and mental health assessments.

The 2009 Civil Grand Jury findings include, but are not limited to, the inconsistency and inadequacy of Medical Hub services, staffing, resources and administrative support; the ineffective medical case management through Medical Hub clinics; and the need to provide multi-disciplinary assessments within the Hub clinic rather than through a separate County-contracted process.

On my August 4, 2009 motion co-authored by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), in conjunction with DCFS, is developing criteria to systematically identify those children who should receive expert Medical Hub forensic evaluations while under DCFS investigation for child abuse/neglect; or while under DCFS supervision in the home of their parents. Pursuant to this motion, DCFS' preliminary estimate is an increase of 23,000 additional visits to the Hubs, resulting in a total of 40,000 annual visits to the Hubs.

Embedded within the various departmental responses to the Civil Grand Jury recommendations about Medical Hubs is the contention that, without the expenditure of a significant amount of additional County General Fund dollars, currently there are not enough resources available to expand Medical Hub operations. Yet the real problem may be that the County has not aggressively pursued revenue solutions, which might be readily available through Medi-Cal, to reimburse the County for the vital Medical Hub services to this vulnerable population.

M O R E

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Officer, in conjunction with the Departments of Health Services, Children and Family Services and Public Social Services, to report back in 30 days, and quarterly thereafter, on its progress in:

- (1) Working with the Medi-Cal Managed Care Health plans to establish contracts for reimbursement for Medical Hub forensic examinations for specified, pre-detained and non-detained children involved in the child welfare system;
- (2) Working with the California Departments of Health and Social Services on carving out reimbursement to the County for Medical Hub forensic medical examinations at the federal Medi-Cal Share of Cost level, similar to the State's agreements with school-based clinics; and
- (3) Evaluating the feasibility of systematically accessing alternative State emergency/temporary Medi-Cal eligibility programs, such as the CHDP Gateway Program, for children not already enrolled in Medi-Cal.

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