

March 2, 2009

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Contra Costa will conduct a PUBLIC HEARING pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 1442.5, on the elimination of and/or reductions in the level of medical services provided by the County, and/or the closing of County health facilities. The hearing will be held at the following time and place:

March 17, 2009
9:30 a.m.

Board of Supervisors Chambers
Room 107, Administration Building
651 Pine Street
Martinez, CA 94553

At the hearing, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors will consider the impact on the health care needs of the County's indigents of the implementation of the changes set forth in the attached notice.

The Board does not consider all of the program changes in the attached notice to be within the required coverage of Health and Safety Code Section 1442.5. Its scheduling of this Hearing, giving this Notice of Public Hearing, the holding of a Hearing, and the making of any findings, shall not be construed as an admission by the County of Contra Costa, or the Board of Supervisors, that any of the actions included in the attached notice are subject to the hearing provisions of Health and Safety Code Section 1442.5.

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**BEILENSEN NOTICE
FISCAL YEAR 2009/10**

**1. Reduce Public Health Laboratory Services
(Item No. 28 on HSD Budget Reduction List)**

The Public Health Laboratory supports Public Health programs and provides specimen laboratory services for the Contra Costa Regional Medical Center and Health Centers. The Public Health Laboratory also provides lab services for non-county operated hospitals in Contra Costa County.

Site: Countywide

Nature of Reduction: Eliminate one Public Health Microbiologist.

Staff reductions: 1.0 Full Time Equivalent (FTE)
Public Health Microbiologist

Patient services affected: The elimination of one Public Health Microbiologist will increase the time needed to test lab specimens, including but not limited to HIV and hepatitis testing. Also, test results will not be as quickly available to patients or providers.

Expected annual savings: \$116,218

2. Reduce Communicable Disease Tuberculosis (TB) Program Services
(Item No. 29 of HSD Budget Reduction List)

The Tuberculosis (TB) program conducts investigations, follows up on potentially active TB cases, provides direct observational therapy to active TB cases to ensure compliance with treatment, and provides nurse case management to patients with TB.

Sites:

Concord Health Center
3052 Willow Pass Road
Concord

Martinez Health Center
2500 Alhambra Avenue
Martinez

Antioch Health Center
3505 Lone Tree Way
Antioch

Bay Point Family Health Center
215 Pacifica Avenue
Bay Point

Brentwood Health Center
171 Sand Creek Road, Suite A
Brentwood

Pittsburg Health Center
2311 Loveridge Road
Pittsburg

North Richmond Center for Health
1501 3rd Street
North Richmond

Richmond Health Center
100 38th Street
Richmond

Nature of reduction: Eliminate one Disease Intervention Technician.

Staff reductions: 1.0 FTE Disease Intervention Technician

Patient services affected: There are two Disease Intervention Technicians (DIT) who provide TB education to patients, schedule appointments, transport patients to and from medical appointments, and provide clerical support to the medical providers at the TB clinics. The loss of one DIT is a 50% reduction in these services.

Expected annual savings: \$97,248

3. Reduce Children's Oral Health Program
(Item Nos. 20 and 21 of HSD Budget Reduction List)

The Children's Oral Health Program works in collaboration with dental health professionals and numerous community partners, such as community-based organizations, churches and schools, to provide preventive dental services to children in low-income areas of the County and to connect children to needed dental services.

Site:	Countywide (by three mobile vans)
Nature of change:	Eliminate one part-time Register Dental Assistant (RDA) and reduce the work schedules of two (2) RDA's to coincide with the school year schedule.
Staff reduction:	.8 FTE Register Dental Assistant Reduce the work schedules of two (2) RDA's from 12 months per year to the approximately 9 month school year.
Patient services affected:	These staff reductions will result in reduced care coordination and referrals for approximately 125 low-income families with children with oral health-related issues.
Expected annual savings:	\$89,524

4. Reduce Public Health Clinic Services
(Item Nos. 33, 34 and 36 of HSD Budget Reduction List)

The Public Health (PH) Clinic Services program provides public health-related services to residents of Contra Costa County through its school-based mobile clinics and at the County Health Centers. Those public health-related services include, but are not limited to, immunizations, sexually-transmitted disease testing, tracking, and education, and family planning services. Program staff also provide language translation services, conduct health interviews, and make home visits to new mothers and their babies to provide health assessments and health education.

Site:	Countywide (and see #2 for a list of the County Health Centers)
Nature of change:	Reduce support staff in the PH Clinics and for the Public Health Nurses who conduct home visits. Eliminate the Women's Health appointment telephone line.
Staff Reductions:	2.0 FTE Community Health Worker II Project .5 FTE Senior Clerk – retiree 1.0 FTE Registered Nurse
Patient services affected:	Approximately 800 individuals will not receive language translation services. The loss of support staff at the Public Health Clinics will result in longer wait times for patients.
Expected annual savings:	\$255,300

5. Reduce TeenAge Program (TAP)
(Item Nos. 22, 23, and 24 of HSD Budget Reduction List)

The TeenAge Program (TAP) provides health education programs in high school classrooms that are focused on responsible decision-making, substance abuse prevention, tobacco use prevention, reproductive health, drinking/driving risks, and communication skills. TAP also works to increase access to health care services for youth throughout the County and partners with Public Health Clinic Services to provide school-based health care services. TAP also provides technical assistance and training to teachers, school district administrators, and adults who serve youths.

Site:	Countywide
Nature of change:	Reduce the number of health education presentations at high schools, at juvenile detention facilities, to pregnant teens, and to at-risk youths. Reduce services to students needing assistance accessing health care services. Reduce the number of youth who participate in youth development programs.
Staff reductions:	1.0 FTE Health Education Specialist Project 1.0 FTE Senior Health Education Specialist Project .2 FTE Temporary Administrative Intern
Patient services affected	Approximately 500 youths will not receive preventive public health services.
Expected annual savings:	\$209,775

6. Cancel Ten Professional Services Contracts—Involving Eleven Physicians
(Item No. 17 of HSD Budget Reduction List)

Most specialty and sub-specialty physician care at the Contra Costa Regional Medical Center (CCRMC) and the County Health Centers is provided by independent contract physicians.

Sites: Contra Costa Regional Medical Center (CCRMC)
2500 Alhambra Avenue
Martinez

Concord Health Center
3052 Willow Pass Road
Concord

Martinez Health Center
2500 Alhambra Avenue
Martinez

Antioch Health Center
3505 Lone Tree Way
Antioch

Bay Point Family Health Center
215 Pacifica Avenue
Bay Point

Brentwood Health Center
171 Sand Creek Road, Suite A
Brentwood

Pittsburg Health Center
2311 Loveridge Road
Pittsburg

North Richmond Center for Health
1501 3rd Street
North Richmond

Richmond Health Center
100 38th Street
Richmond

Nature of change:

Cancel the following professional services contracts:

- (a) One anesthesiologist
- (b) Two general surgeons
- (c) One specialty internist
- (d) One neurosurgeon
- (e) One specialty gynecologist
- (f) Two psychiatrists
- (g) One neurologist
- (h) One contract with one vascular surgeon and one thoracic surgeon.

Staff reductions:

Eleven physicians under contract with the County will be eliminated.
No County-employed physicians will be eliminated.

Patient services affected:

This action will reduce the number of physicians available to provide certain specialty services for patients in need. Each specialty will be affected differently, as noted below. However, this action will generally limit access to specialty care and will result in delays for patients at CCRMC and the Health Centers.

- (a) Anesthesia services will remain the same, but the Anesthesia Department will have fewer scheduling options.
- (b) General surgery services will remain the same in scope, but it will take longer to provide elective surgery services to patients.
- (c) Cancellation of the specialty internist contract will reduce the availability of cardiac ECHOs and will decrease the availability of some internal medicine specialty clinics. A portion of the lost services will be replaced by County-employed physicians.
- (d) Neurosurgical services will no longer be provided. Patients needing these services will be transferred to other medical facilities.
- (e) Certain specialty gynecological services (uro-gynecological reconstructions) will no longer be provided. Patients needing these services will be transferred to other medical facilities.
- (f) The system capacity for psychiatric consultation services will be reduced by the cancellation of the two psychiatrist contracts. A

portion of the lost services will be replaced by County-employed physicians and other contract physicians.

- (g) The availability of neurology services will be reduced. The remaining physicians will have more work to do that will require more time to complete.
- (h) Vascular surgery services and thoracic surgery services will no longer be provided. Patients needing these services will be transferred to other medical facilities.

Expected annual savings: \$1,000,000

7. Change the Eligibility Standards for the Basic Health Care (BHC) Program to Make Undocumented Adult Aliens Ineligible for Non-Emergency Health Care Services

(Item No. 16 of HSD Budget Reduction List)

The County's indigent health care program is called the Basic Health Care (BHC) Program. The BHC Program provides health care services to low income and indigent residents of Contra Costa County who are not eligible for any other health insurance program. Under the current terms of the BHC Program, approximately 5,500 undocumented adult aliens are eligible users of the County health care system. [Note: Medi-Cal provides coverage to certain undocumented aliens for pregnancy and emergency services and these services will continue without interruption.]

Site: Countywide

Nature of change: Remove undocumented adult (age 19 and older) aliens from the BHC Program.

Staff reductions: None

Patient services affected: Approximately 5,500 undocumented adult aliens would no longer be eligible for the BHC Program. Undocumented adult aliens would no longer be eligible to receive non-emergency outpatient and inpatient medical services from the County's health care system at little or no cost, in accordance with the terms of the BHC Program. Emergency health care services would be unaffected by this change and would continue to be provided.

Non-emergency medical services include case management services, outpatient and specialty clinic services, general acute care inpatient services, lab & X-ray services, medical supplies and durable medical equipment, optometry exams, pharmacy services and formulary drugs, outpatient physician and nurse practitioner visit services, podiatry services, prosthetics/orthotics, speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and non-emergency medical transportation.

Expected annual savings: \$6,000,000
By rendering undocumented adult aliens ineligible for the BHC Program, additional capacity would become available for Medi-Cal patients and members of the Contra Costa Health Plan.

8. Eliminate Inmate Health Care Services at the West County Detention Facility

(Item No. 15 on HSD Budget Reduction List)

A comprehensive system of on-site, non-emergency health care services is currently provided to the male and female inmates of the County's West County Detention Facility (WCDF). The WCDF houses approximately 800 inmates, including approximately 200 women. A comprehensive system of on-site, non-emergency health care services is also provided at the Martinez Detention Facility (MDF) for its inmates. Under this proposal, WCDF inmates who require non-emergency health care services would be transferred to the MDF for housing, where health care services would remain available. If emergency care is needed, WCDF inmates would continue to be transferred to a hospital emergency room via emergency medical transportation. As a result of this change, approximately 300 to 350 inmates at the WCDF who currently need health care services would be transferred to the MDF.

Site: West County Detention Facility
5555 Giant Highway
Richmond

Nature of change: Eliminate inmate health care services at the West County Detention Facility.

Staff reductions: 1.0 FTE Charge Nurse
6.3 FTE Registered Nurse
3.8 FTE Licensed Vocational Nurse
4.1 FTE Registry Nurse
2.0 FTE Mental Health Clinical Specialist
1.0 FTE Clerk
0.8 FTE contract physician

Patient services affected: WCDF inmates would no longer receive non-emergency health care services at the WCDF. Instead, WCDF inmates who need health care services would be transferred to the MDF. The following types of inmates would no longer be housed at the WCDF: pregnant women; inmates needing treatment for alcohol or mental health problems; inmates with insulin dependent diabetes or brittle hypertension; inmates needing dressing changes, neurological, blood pressure, or blood glucose checks; inmates needing regular medical evaluations; and inmates needing dental services, diagnostic services (such as lab or X-ray), pharmacy services, or any treatment for any non-emergency medical condition.

Expected annual savings: \$2,600,000