

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Beverly Thames, (650) 573-3935
San Mateo County Health System

Former San Francisco Health Plan CEO Chosen as Chief of Newly Created San Mateo County Health System

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. – San Mateo County Manager John Maltbie and Assistant County Manager David Boesch today announced the selection of Jean S. Fraser as Chief of the San Mateo County Health System. Fraser’s appointment will be confirmed by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors on January 6, 2009. Fraser will assume her new post on January 20.

“After an exhaustive nationwide search and a rigorous selection process, it became abundantly clear that the strongest candidate far and away is someone well known to many in our region already. Jean has the experience, skills, qualities and passion to successfully lead our Health System as we continue to create an innovative health agenda and model for the nation,” said Boesch.

From 2000 to 2008, Fraser was the Chief Executive Officer of San Francisco Health Plan (SFHP), a not-for-profit HMO that provides health insurance for low- and moderate-income San Franciscans. During her tenure with SFHP, she spearheaded the launch of Healthy Kids, which resulted in San Francisco becoming the one of the first counties in the nation to reach universal insurance for children. She also was instrumental in creating and implementing the Healthy San Francisco program, which provides access to affordable health care to all uninsured San Franciscans.

Prior to joining SFHP, Fraser was with the San Francisco City Attorney’s Office, where she led the team of attorneys advising the San Francisco Departments of Public Health and Human Services.

Currently, Fraser provides consulting services to clients in the areas of healthcare policy, strategic and management decision-making, and meeting facilitation.

As Health System Chief, Fraser will be responsible for all County healthcare functions, including the San Mateo Medical Center, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, Correctional Health Services, Aging and Adult Services, Family Health Services and Community Health. She will work closely with the Health Plan of San Mateo, a managed care health plan that provides health care benefits to underserved residents

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“I am so pleased to join the outstanding team of health professionals in the San Mateo Health System,” said Fraser. “San Mateo has an excellent reputation for its culture of collaboration and innovation. With the newly-integrated Health System, San Mateo will be a leader statewide in promoting the health of our residents through our prevention efforts and our provision of high quality health services.”

The newly formed Health System is expected to strengthen the County’s leadership role in local health issues and provide a unified health agenda.

The move to align all health services grew out of several recent initiatives from the Board of Supervisors. These include: the creation of a Health Policy and Planning division to address the long-term health challenges of San Mateo County; creating enhanced and integrated services and programs to improve public health and better serve vulnerable populations; and a community planning process and assessment of ways to improve access to healthcare for the uninsured and improve the County’s financial position to address the healthcare needs of the uninsured.

Charlene Silva has served as interim Health Systems Chief since August when the Board of Supervisors approved a proposal by Maltbie and Boesch to place all community health and healthcare delivery services in a single department. She has played a key role in aligning all health functions in the months before her long-planned retirement.

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