

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Departmental Correspondence

DATE: JUN 1 2001
HEARING DATE JUN 26 2001

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM: Timothy B. McMurdo, Hospital and Clinics
SUBJECT: Amendment to Salary Ordinance 03987; Long Term Care Wage Pass-Through

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution authorizing the President of the Board to execute an amendment to the salary ordinance implementing the Long Term Care Wage Pass-Through legislation for eligible employees at San Mateo County Health Center

Background

Effective August 1, 2000, Welfare and Institutions Code Section 14110.6 requires the California Department of Health Services to increase rates to all long term care facilities and to include a wage pass-through to improve the quality of care for nursing home residents by requiring affected facilities to increase wages, salaries and benefits of their employees who provide direct patient care. This includes registered nurses, licensed vocational nurses, nurse assistants, plant operations and maintenance, housekeeping, laundry and linen, and dietary staff. Supervisory staff are not eligible for the pass-through.

Discussion

The total amount to be passed-through is calculated by multiplying the per diem increase the facility receives by the number of Medi-Cal patient days in long term care. The California Department of Health Services will conduct audits of facilities to ensure that the rate increase has been passed on to employees providing direct patient care. A facility that fails to comply will be liable to make restitution to the Medi-Cal program, and to pay a penalty equal to ten percent of the Medi-Cal funds not distributed.

Term and Fiscal Impact

The Hospital has determined the wage pass-through for our facility to be approximately \$197,000, which equates to \$1.25 an hour. The unions and Employee and Public Services have been meeting with the Division to discuss implementation. This hourly adjustment will be given to all qualified employees until the fund is exhausted. Once the fund is exhausted, the hourly rate will return to the regular rate. Disbursement of these funds will be determined by using a time code on the biweekly time card. A bi-weekly payroll report will be run by the Controller's Office to track these funds and when the funds have been expended, the program will stop until the next term approved by the State. The wage pass-through will have no net county cost.

RECOMMENDED


HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT

ORDINANCE NO. _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 03987, SECTION 5 - SPECIAL COMPENSATION, IMPLEMENTING THE LONG TERM CARE WAGE PASS-THROUGH FOR ELIGIBLE STAFF AT SAN MATEO COUNTY HEALTH CENTER IN COMPLIANCE WITH WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE SECTION 14110.6.

- (1) Ordinance No. 3987 is amended to add the following to **SECTION 5 - SPECIAL COMPENSATION**:

Health Services Agency

For employees providing direct patient care as identified by the Director of Health Services, County shall comply with the wage pass-through provisions of Welfare and Institutions Code Section 14110.6 and the rate of pay shall be increased \$1.25 per hour for hours worked in direct patient care.

- (2) This ordinance shall be effective immediately.

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