



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence

DATE: February 18, 2004

BOARD MEETING DATE: February 24, 2004

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Rose Jacobs Gibson *RJG*

SUBJECT: San Mateo County Healthy Communities Summit: Conference on Health Disparities

Recommendation

Approve the Authorization to Host the Healthy Communities Summit on May 21, 2004 with a proposed cost cap of \$25,000, which will be recovered by registration fees and donations.

Background

During the past year, I have convened a working group to explore the disparate impact of health problems on our diverse communities. The results, while not surprising, are troubling and confirmed that population based health disparities continue to persist among our residents. At the December 16, 2003, board meeting I presented a memo to the Board on this important topic. That report recommends, in part, the organizing of a summit to bring key stakeholders together to create an action plan and coordinate efforts to eliminate health disparities on a countywide basis. As a result, I asked Margaret Taylor and Nancy Steiger to work with me in organizing this Summit.

The Summit will spotlight many of the concerns raised in my health disparities working group and educate the broad audience on the latest health statistics in San Mateo County. It will also provide an opportunity for numerous groups to come together to share their perspectives on how best to address the growing problems of cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, behavioral health issues and other health conditions in typically poor, ethnic minority communities. In addition to focusing on specific disease areas, summit participants will have a chance to examine the underlying issues that act as precursors to health disparities including poverty, housing, education, transportation, and labor with representatives from each of these areas invited to attend. The Summit goes

beyond edification, however, and aims to establish clear short and long terms goals that translate into concrete action plans and delegation of specific responsibilities. For the county, this Summit is an opportunity to further our efforts at improving cultural competency in our agencies and improve our existing outreach, education, and partnership efforts.

Vision Alignment

The Healthy Communities Summit will support several of the Visioning goals, such as goal #5 that calls for residents to have access to healthcare and preventive care; goal #6 that addresses the need for children to grow up healthy in safe and supportive homes and neighborhoods; goal #8 which addresses helping vulnerable people – the aged, disabled, mentally ill, at-risk youth and other – achieve a better quality of life; and goal #21 which calls for County employees to understand, support and integrate the County vision and goals into their delivery of service.

Fiscal Impact

There will be no direct impact on the County's budget. Costs associated with the conference will be recovered by registration fees and donations.