



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence

County Counsel

DATE: December 22, 2003

BOARD MEETING DATE: January 13, 2004

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: County Counsel

SUBJECT: Delegation of Authority to the San Mateo Medical Center
Governing Board for the Operation of the San Mateo Medical
Center

Recommendation

Adopt a resolution expressly delegating specific authority to the San Mateo Medical Center ("SMMC") governing board for the efficient and legally compliant operation of the San Mateo Medical Center.

Background

Since approximately the early 1980's, there has existed a governing board for the SMMC. This governing board was established in large part after the creation of the Joint Commission Accreditation Hospital Organization (JCAHO), which developed a requirement that each accredited hospital establish a governing board. JCAHO required, and continues to require, that each accredited hospital maintain a governing board ultimately responsible for the quality of care the hospital provides, which includes credentialing and financial management, and that each governing board adopt bylaws addressing its legal accountabilities and responsibility to the patient population served.

Although the Board of Supervisors has been, and continues to be, the ultimate authority over the SMMC operations and budget, it was determined many years ago that instead of having the Board of Supervisors be the governing board of the SMMC for JCAHO compliance purposes, and for day-to-day oversight purposes, that a separate hospital board, with two members of the Board of Supervisors sitting as members, would be a more effective way to address the day to day regulatory requirements of JCAHO and to generally oversee many of the activities of the SMMC.

Discussion

Although the SMMC has been operating with a separate governing board for many years, the Board has never formalized the delegation of authority to the SMMC governing board. This resolution is an effort to cure that technical issue. As a result, this resolution delegates authority from the Board of Supervisors to the SMMC governing board and formalizes the legal relationships and lines of authority between the two legislative bodies. The Board of Supervisors remains the governing body ultimately responsible for the operations and budget of the SMMC. However, in order to comply with JCAHO and to more efficiently address the day to day operational issues of the SMMC, the Board delegates certain specified powers to the SMMC hospital board. These specific powers are delineated in the resolution.

Vision Alignment

This resolution furthers the commitment to Ensure Basic Health and Safety for All and goal number 5: Residents have access to healthcare and preventative care and goal number 8: Help vulnerable people—the aged, disabled, mentally ill, at-risk youth and others—achieve a better quality of life.

Fiscal Impact

None.

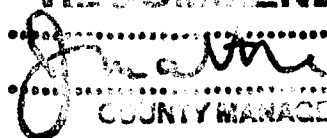


THOMAS F. CASEY, III, COUNTY COUNSEL

cc: John Maltbie, County Manager
Nancy Steiger, CEO, San Mateo Medical Center

TFC:JCB

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COUNTY MANAGER