



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Board of Supervisors

DATE: December 3, 2004

BOARD MEETING DATE: December 14, 2004

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Supervisor Richard Gordon ^{RA} and Supervisor Mike Nevin ^{MN}

SUBJECT: San Mateo Health Commission

Recommendation

Adopt an ordinance amending the membership of the San Mateo Commission on Publicly Assisted Medical Care, also known as the San Mateo Health Commission and the Health Plan of San Mateo.

Background

Since its formation in 1987, the Health Commission has included eleven (11) members. This was necessary to ensure a broadly based public-private partnership, which successfully oversees the administration of Medi-Cal in the County of San Mateo. As part of the effort to ensure a strong provider network, the Health Plan has historically paid the same rate to providers of the same service,

Discussion

In 2002, it became evident that the San Mateo Medical Center was losing significant revenue as the result of its participation as a provider in the Health Plan of San Mateo. Its inpatient provider contract with the Health Plan meant that the Medical Center was unable to qualify for enough AB 1255 funding to ensure continued fiscal viability. Therefore, your board authorized the Medical Center to terminate its participation as a Health Plan provider if it could not find a way to offset the losses it was suffering because of its participation.

The solution that was developed involved the payment of differential rates to providers of the same services. With an agreement to pay the Medical Center a rate that was higher than that of other providers of the same service, the Medical Center

has been able to continue providing Medi-Cal services through the Health Plan.

However, the differential rates have led to several decisions that presented a conflict of interest for some of the commissioners, and several members of the Commission have been unable to participate in the important decisions regarding differential rates.

Therefore, it is recommended that the membership be modified to eliminate the hospital administrators from membership on the commission. It is also recommended that the public member slot that had been required to be filled by a nurse be converted to a member at large. This change will remove all three hospital administrators from the commission, and will significantly alleviate the issues concerning conflicts of interest.


Further, the original membership of eleven (11) is quite a bit larger than the membership of other county commissions. The reduction of the required membership to nine (9) commissioners will make the operation of the commission more efficient and easier to manage.

Vision Alignment


This action is consistent with the goal of providing affordable healthcare and preventive care.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact.



SUPERVISOR RICHARD GORDON



SUPERVISOR MIKE NEVIN