



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
**Inter-Departmental Correspondence**

**Health Department**

**DATE:** October 5, 2005  
**BOARD MEETING DATE:** October 18, 2005  
**SPECIAL NOTICE/HEARING:** None  
**VOTE REQUIRED:** Majority

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Charlene A. Silva, Director of Health *CS*  
Gale Bataille, Director of Mental Health Services *Gale Bataille*

**SUBJECT:** Pacific Islander Mental Health Seminar

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a resolution sponsoring a leadership seminar on November 19, 2005 to develop a plan for a mental health services program for the Pacific Islands communities in San Mateo County.

**VISION ALIGNMENT:**

**Commitment:** Ensure Basic Health and Safety for All

**Goal 8:** Help vulnerable people – the aged, disabled, mentally ill, at risk youth, and others achieve a better quality of life.

This seminar will contribute to this commitment and goal by providing recommendations for improving mental health-related education, access to services and treatment for the Pacific Island communities.

**Performance Measure(s):**

<b>Measure</b>	<b>FY 2004-05 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2005-06 Projected</b>
Develop recommendations for education, improved access to services and treatment for the Pacific Islands communities.	NA	100%

**BACKGROUND:**

Increasing access and treatment engagement of un-served and underserved ethnic/linguistic populations is a key initiative of San Mateo County's three-year

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA-Proposition 63) plan that will be submitted to your Board for approval in November 2005. The proposal includes MHSA funding for culture-specific grants and activities for Chinese, Filipino, African American, Latino and Pacific Islander communities. Pacific Islanders are among the County's least served, high-need populations. That group has significant unmet mental health/substance abuse needs as well as disproportionate involvement of youth and young adults in the criminal justice system. A one-day seminar will bring together leaders, including diplomatic representatives of the County's Samoan, American Samoan, Fijian and Tongan communities to develop proposals to address unmet mental health needs.

**DISCUSSION:**

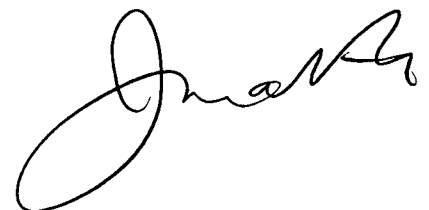
The Mental Health Services Division, the Mental Health Board and a non-profit Asian Pacific Islander-focused provider agency have agreed to co-sponsor a one-day seminar titled "A Pacific Islander Mental Health Action Agenda." This seminar will bring together approximately 75-100 Tongan, Fijian, and Samoan community leaders including religious and diplomatic leaders. This will be a key step in the planning of culturally appropriate mental health services for these communities.

The involvement of diplomatic leaders from the islands has been recommended by Pacific Islander participants on the seminar planning committee. It is essential in creating legitimacy and support for this proposed collaboration with mental health. The Samoan Ambassador to the United Nations has already been approached by a member of the planning committee and has indicated his interest in attending this event.

The Sheriff and the Chief Probation Officer and the Courts will be invited participants because of the extent to which Pacific Islander youth are involved in the criminal justice system rather than in mental health treatment. Formal Board of Supervisors sponsorship of the seminar is requested because of the proposed participation of diplomatic leaders and as an indication of the County's commitment to address the needs and health disparities of Pacific Islander residents.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The seminar will cost about \$30,000. Approximately 50% of seminar costs of up to \$15,000 will be funded through Mental Health Services act planning and one-time funding. Pacific Islander leaders involved on the seminar planning committee will raise the remaining funds with the support of Asian American Recovery Services, Inc. There is no net County cost for the seminar.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Smith", is located in the bottom right corner of the page.