



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Health System

DATE: July 31, 2009
BOARD MEETING DATE: August 25, 2009
SPECIAL NOTICE/HEARING: None
VOTE REQUIRED: Majority

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jean S. Fraser, Chief, Health System
Brian J. Zamora, Director, Community Health Division

SUBJECT: Public Health Clinic Fees

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution establishing Public Health Clinic fees effective September 1, 2009.

BACKGROUND:

Public Health Clinics are comprised of the Mobile Clinic and Edison Clinic. The Mobile Clinic provides health services to underserved populations in San Mateo County and assists clients in accessing primary care. The Edison Clinic provides clinical services for individuals with HIV infection and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD).

The Public Health Clinics have a long history of providing free medical services to homeless, uninsured, and low-income clients throughout the County. Although these clinical services are no longer marketed as "free," the majority of services do not generate insurance revenue. In 2008 the Mobile Clinic provided services to approximately 4,844 clients of which 66% were uninsured. In FY 2008-09 approximately 1,300 clients were seen in the Edison Clinic for STD testing and treatment. At the Edison Clinic a \$20 donation has been requested, of which 69% of clients have complied.

DISCUSSION:

Increasing numbers of residents from neighboring counties are coming to the Public Health Clinics for adult immunizations, Tuberculosis (TB) skin tests, and STD screening. This is a result of their home county either not providing these services or charging a fee for services that the County of San Mateo Public Health Clinics have historically provided free of charge.



Eight Public Health jurisdictions within California were surveyed to determine if they charge fees for clinic services, immunizations, and TB screening services. The eight jurisdictions are: Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Orange, San Francisco, Sonoma, Santa Clara, and San Diego. Six of these counties charge immunization fees for children and adults, as well as a clinic fee for adults. Four counties charge TB skin testing fees plus a service fee.

The proposed Public Health Clinic fees were calculated based upon the actual cost to the County for the immunizations and the total cost of administration of the programs divided by the number of patients seen annually. The proposed fees do not cover the Clinics' actual costs but rather only serve to defray the direct cost of the program to the County. The proposed fees are in line with those charged by the other California counties surveyed. The STD Clinic will not charge the \$25 clinic fee but will still request a donation. Fees may be waived for any person who meets the eligibility criteria under the Federal Health Care for the Homeless Program (HCH) and/or for persons clinically determined to be at risk for transmitting an STD to others. County Counsel has reviewed and approved the Resolution as to form.

Approval of this Resolution contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Healthy Community by ensuring that vital public health clinical services are provided to residents of San Mateo County. It is anticipated that 50% of intra-agency referrals will result in follow-up appointments scheduled at appropriate medical clinics.

Performance Measure:

Measure	FY 2008-09 Actual	FY 2009-10 Projected
Percentage of intra-agency referrals generated by the Public Health Clinics, which result in follow-up appointments scheduled at the appropriate medical clinic.	N/A*	50%

*This is a new performance measure and data is not available.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The proposed Public Health Clinic fees are expected to generate new revenue of approximately \$85,000 for FY 2009-10. This addition was not included in the Community Health tentatively Adopted FY 2009-10 Budget. The proposed additional revenue will be included in the Community Health FY 2009-10 Adopted Budget. The tentatively Adopted FY 2009-10 Budget for the Mobile Clinic is \$1,924,873, of which \$1,478,354 is covered by Realignment from sales tax, \$295,390 is covered by the Health Care for the Homeless grant and service reimbursements. Net County Cost is \$151,129. The tentatively Adopted FY 2009-10 Budget for the Edison STD Clinic is \$439,055, of which \$29,150 is covered by service reimbursements. Net County Cost is \$409,905.