



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

GREG COX
First District

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Second District

DAVE ROBERTS
Third District

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Fourth District

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Fifth District

DATE: April 23, 2013

XX

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF HEALTHY FAMILIES PROGRAM CASES TO MEDI-CAL
(DISTRICT: ALL)

SUMMARY

Overview

[California's Medi-Cal program provides basic health care safety net services to qualified, low-income residents of California. State law requires that County employees perform eligibility and enrollment services for the program. The County of San Diego's Health and Human Services Agency (HHS), under the direction and authority of the California Department of Health Care Services, manages approximately 171,732 cases comprised of 354,000 Medi-Cal recipients and process 13,800 new applications monthly.

Historically, California's Healthy Families Program has provided low cost health insurance for children who do not have insurance and do not qualify for no cost Medi-Cal. It included health, dental and vision coverage for enrollees. The Healthy Families Program was previously administered by the State's Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (MRMIB).

The 2012-13 California State Budget called for the transition of approximately 880,000 Healthy Families program recipients statewide to the Medi-Cal program over a twelve-month period beginning in January 2013. As a result of this policy change, Counties are now responsible for the maintenance and transition of the Healthy Families Program recipients into Medi-Cal. Locally, this translates into an estimated 73,000 children being transferred to San Diego's Medi-Cal caseload. Additionally, it is anticipated that 1,400 new Medi-Cal applications will be received each month during the twelve-month transition period. This new population will also be evaluated for CalFresh benefits.

To handle this new responsibility, today's item, if approved, will allow an increase of 265 positions. State and Federal Social Services Administrative revenues will be used to cover these additional costs. The transition of Healthy Families Program into Medi-Cal streamlines programs and facilitates the integration of health and nutrition service delivery, which is in line with the County's *Live Well, San Diego!* initiative to promote healthy, safe and thriving communities.

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Recommendation(s)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Approve the request to add 265 staff years to the Health and Human Services Agency to support services associated with the State's transfer of the Healthy Families Program to Medi-Cal, and authorize the Department of Human Resources to appropriately classify these positions.
2. Establish appropriations of \$3,146,327 in the Health and Human Services Agency, salaries and benefits (\$2,737,686), and services and supplies (\$408,641), associated with the State's transfer of the Healthy Families Program, based on available State and Federal Medi-Cal and CalFresh Administrative revenue.

Fiscal Impact

Funds for this request are not included in the Fiscal Year 2012-13 Operational Plan for the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved this request will result in costs and revenue of \$3,146,327 in Fiscal Year 2012-13, and costs and revenue of \$18,877,959 in FY 2013-14. The funding sources include State and federal Medi-Cal and CalFresh Administration revenue. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and 265 staff years added.

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

This Board letter will be heard at the Social Services Advisory Board (SSAB) as an informational item on April 11, 2013.

Background

The Medi-Cal program provides health care services to low-income Californians who meet predefined eligibility requirements. California's Medi-Cal program guidelines are based on the federal Medicaid program established under Title XIX of the Social Security Act. Under California law, the County of San Diego is responsible for administering the Medi-Cal program and determining eligibility for County residents.

Prior to this calendar year, California's Healthy Families Program provided low cost health insurance for children who did not have insurance and did not qualify for no cost Medi-Cal. It included health, dental and vision coverage for enrollees. Funding for this program was shared by the federal government and State of California, and was administered by the State.

The 2012-13 California State Budget called for the transition of approximately 880,000 Healthy Families Program cases throughout the state to the Medi-Cal program over a twelve-month period, which began in January 2013. This action shifted the responsibility to counties by making them responsible for the ongoing maintenance of eligibility for Healthy Families Program recipients who have transitioned to Medi-Cal, as well as eligibility determinations for new applications during the 12-month transition period.

San Diego County had approximately 8.3% of California's Healthy Families Program population

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and is now responsible for processing an estimated 73,000 (8.3% of 880,000) Medi-Cal eligibility redeterminations for the existing Healthy Families Program cases. Additionally, on average, there are currently 1,400 new Healthy Families Program applications in San Diego County every month, which the County will now be responsible for processing.

Mandated tasks associated with local Medi-Cal eligibility operations include: timely and accurate processing of applications and annual eligibility reviews through face to face, online and telephone processes; assisting and responding to questions from applicants, recipients, advocates, and providers; ensuring program integrity through investigative interviewing, database matches, quality control reviews and State fair hearing processes; ongoing training, coaching and directing of staff on new policies and procedures; scanning and indexing thousands of required verifications in the County's document repository system; and other administrative functions.

Transferring the Healthy Families Program population into Medi-Cal will increase workload, requiring the addition of staff. Additionally, as the applicants seeking assistance grows, County staff will have the opportunity to extend CalFresh benefits to families that are eligible for the program. It is estimated that this new workload will require 265 additional staff.

Today's item requests the approval for 265 positions. A breakdown of the 265 positions is included in Attachment A, Healthy Families Staffing. The 265 staff years will be funded with available State and federal Medi-Cal and CalFresh Administrative funding. In Fiscal Year 2012-13 it is estimated that the costs and revenue will be \$3,146,327, and \$18,877,959 in Fiscal Year 2013-14.

Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan

By streamlining programs and facilitating accessing health and nutrition programs, this item aligns with the "Healthy Families" Strategic Initiative and supports the "Accountability, Transparency and Ethical Conduct Required Discipline" of the County of San Diego's 2013-2018 Strategic Plan. Furthermore, this action supports the County's *Live Well, San Diego!* initiative by promoting the integration of health and nutrition assistance service delivery.

Respectfully submitted,

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FUNCTION TO INSERT
SIGNATURE

HELEN N. ROBBINS-MEYER
Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT(S)

Attachment A, Healthy Families Staffing

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED
 Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:

April 21, 2009 (7), Report on Healthy Opportunities During an Unhealthy Economy

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:

Board Policy E-10, Comprehensive Social Services System and Board Policy M-57, Legislative Policy: Fraud Prevention in Public and Medical Assistance Programs.

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:

N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:

N/A

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):

N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Health and Human Services Agency

OTHER CONCURRENCE(S): Department of Human Resources

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