

June 4, 2024

Board of Supervisors  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, California 93009

**Subject:** Approval of, and Authorization for the Health Care Agency Director or Designee to Sign, the First Amendment to the Agreement with Catherine Sanders, M.D., for Clinical Documentation Integrity Physician Champion and Utilization Review/Case Management Physician Reviewer Services, Removing the Not-to-Exceed Amount from the Contract, Extending the Term of the Contract Through June 30, 2025, and Up to Two Fiscal Years Thereafter, and Increasing the Purchase Document Not-to-Exceed Amount by \$9,375 from \$172,500 to \$181,875 for Fiscal Year 2023-24 and any Fiscal Year Thereafter, Effective June 4, 2024.

**Recommendation:**

That your Board approve, and authorize the Health Care Agency (HCA) Director or designee to sign, the first amendment to the agreement with Catherine Sanders, M.D., for clinical documentation integrity physician champion and utilization review/case management physician reviewer services, removing the not-to-exceed amount from the contract, extending the term of the contract through June 30, 2025, and up to two fiscal years thereafter, and increasing the purchase document not-to-exceed amount by \$9,375 from \$172,500 to \$181,875 for fiscal year 2023-24 and any fiscal year thereafter, effective June 4, 2024.

**Fiscal Impact:**

|                              |                                     |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mandatory:                   | No                                  |
| Source of Funding:           | VCMC Operating Revenues/Collections |
| Funding Match Required:      | None                                |
| Impact on Other Departments: | N/A                                 |

**Summary of Annual Revenues and Costs Under this Agreement:**

|                    | <u>FY 2023-24</u> | <u>FY 2024-25</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| REVENUE:           | \$9,375           | \$181,875         |
| DIRECT COSTS:      | \$9,375           | \$181,875         |
| INDIRECT COSTS:    | Minor             | Minor             |
| Net revenue <cost> | \$0               | \$0               |

**Current Fiscal Year Budget:**

| <b>Current FY 2023-24 Budget Projections for Ventura County Medical Center #3300</b> |                       |                        |                         |                                    |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
|  | <b>Adopted Budget</b> | <b>Adjusted Budget</b> | <b>Projected Actual</b> | <b>Estimated Savings/(Deficit)</b> |
| Expenditures   | \$673,790,899         | \$721,214,436          | \$676,277,276           | \$44,937,160                       |
| Revenue  | \$665,452,626         | \$682,772,959          | \$672,052,975           | (\$10,719,984)                     |
| Operational Income/(Loss)  | (\$8,338,273)         | (\$38,441,477)         | (\$4,224,301)           | \$34,217,176                       |

Sufficient revenue and appropriations are included in the FY 23-24 adopted budget. The operational income includes "Operating Transfers In" that are primarily attributed to County contribution.

**Table 1 below summarizes the net financial impacts of the VCMC contract:**

| Provider                | Eff. Date | Current Contract Annual Maximum | Proposed Contract Annual Maximum | FY 23-24 Inc/<Decr> | FY 24-25 Inc/<Decr> |
|-------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Catherine Sanders, M.D. | 6/4/2024  | \$172,500                       | \$181,875                        | \$9,375             | \$0                 |
| Catherine Sanders, M.D. | 7/1/2025  | \$0                             | \$181,875                        | \$0                 | \$181,875           |
| Total                   |           |                                 |                                  | \$9,375             | \$181,875           |

**Strategic Plan Priority:**

The item presented in this Board letter supports the Healthy, Safe, and Resilient Communities strategic priority of the County Strategic Plan as it is designed to meet the goal of providing access to quality healthcare required for our community to thrive.

**Discussion:**

The proposed amendment before your Board is for Catherine Sanders, M.D., who has been serving as Physician Champion for the Clinical Documentation Integrity (CDI) Program and Physician Reviewer for Utilization Review/Case Management since 2018. Under the proposed amendment, Dr. Sanders' responsibilities as CDI Physician Champion will remain unchanged. In this role, she will continue to collaborate closely with


several CDI specialists and physicians to ensure that documentation meets the requirements set forth by third-party payers and government regulations.

However, her role as a utilization review/case management reviewer will be modified to include an additional 75 hours per fiscal year. This increase in allocated hours will allow Dr. Sanders to provide additional support to the department and assist the team in managing unexpected workload surges. The proposed amendment aims to enhance the department's operational efficiency and responsiveness to fluctuating demands while leveraging Dr. Sanders' expertise and experience.

The agreement with Catherine Sanders, M.D. shall be in effect through June 30, 2025. Then, unless either party gives notice of its intent not to renew at least 90 days prior to the renewal date, and subject to the receipt of all necessary budgetary approvals by your Board, the agreement may then be extended for up to two additional periods of one year each.

The portions of the agreement concerning compensation paid by HCA are exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Act (Health and Safety Code Section 1457 (c) (1)). If the Board would like further information regarding the rates, the original agreement is retained by Mike Taylor, HCA's Chief Financial Officer.

This letter has been reviewed by County Counsel, the Auditor-Controller's Office, and the County Executive Office. If you have any questions regarding this item, please call John Fankhauser, M.D., Chief Executive Officer, County Hospitals, at 805-652-6058.

  
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JOHN FANKHAUSER, M.D.  
Chief Executive Officer, County Hospitals  
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BARRY ZIMMERMAN  
Health Care Agency Director

**Exhibit:**

Exhibit 1 – First Amendment to Agreement for Clinical Documentation Integrity Physician Champion and Utilization Review/Case Management Physician Reviewer with Catherine Sanders, M.D.