

Setting the Standard in Health Care Excellence

February 27, 2024

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

SUBJECT:

Approval of, and Authorization for the Purchasing Agent or Designee to Sign, Amendment No. 5 to Contract No. 8660 with LocumTenens.com LLC for Patient Assessment Services, Extending the Contract Through October 31, 2024, Increasing the Not-To-Exceed Amount by \$240,000 From \$120,000 to \$360,000 for the Period February 1, 2024 through October 31, 2024.

RECOMMENDATION:

That your Board approve, and authorize the Purchasing Agent or designee to sign, amendment No. 5 to contract No. 8660 with LocumTenens.com LLC (LocumTenens) for patient assessment services, extending the contract through October 31, 2024, increasing the not-to-exceed amount by \$240,000 from \$120,000 to \$360,000 for the period February 1, 2024 through October 31, 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>Contract Year 2</u>	<u>Contract Year 3</u>
REVENUE:	\$240,000	\$0
DIRECT COSTS:	\$240,000	\$0
INDIRECT COSTS:	Minor	Minor
Net Revenue <cost>	\$0	\$0

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR BUDGET:

Current FY 2023-24 Budget Projections for Ventura County Medical Center #3300				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Actual	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Expenditures	\$673,790,899	\$673,790,899	\$673,790,899	\$0
Revenue	\$665,452,626	\$665,452,626	\$665,452,626	\$0
Operational Income/(Loss)	(\$8,338,273)	(\$8,338,273)	(\$8,338,273)	\$0

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.

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:

LocumTenens provides the Health Care Agency (HCA) with licensed clinical social workers who provide daily coverage for remote suicide assessments for patients entering the hospital emergency rooms who are at moderate to high risk for suicide.

The service is integral to ensuring patients who are suicidal get timely assessment and subsequent referral to the correct level of care. Additionally, suicide assessments are a highly regulated process in hospitals subject to audit. LocumTenens' services ensure we are compliant with the regulatory measures around suicide assessments.

The long-term plan is to bring on additional social workers to support this function, but the department is not able to provide these hours of coverage at this time. LocumTenens staff fill a critical gap in our staffing by seeing all patients in the Emergency Department who screen positive on the suicide assessment in a timely manner. In March, HCA will be expanding the program to patients admitted through other departments, such as surgery and pediatrics. This expansion is an important safety mechanism for our patients at risk of suicide. LocumTenens allows us to expand this important intervention that we otherwise would not be able to support full time internally. The amendment before your Board extends the services provided by LocumTenens through October 31, 2024, while HCA completes the recruiting process to be able to provide these services with employees.

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



John Fankhauser, M.D.
Chief Executive Officer, County Hospitals



Barry L. Zimmerman
Health Care Agency Director

EXHIBIT

Exhibit 1 – LocumTenens.com LLC - Amendment No. 5 to Contract No. 8660