



Setting the Standard in Health Care Excellence

September 24, 2024

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

Subject: Approval of, and Authorization for the Health Care Agency (HCA) Director, or Designee to Sign, Agreement with Nathan Carroll, M.D. for Assistant Chief Medical Informatics Officer Services, in a Maximum Amount of \$262,600 per Contract Year, Effective October 1, 2024, Through September 30, 2025, and up to Two Contract Years Thereafter; Approval of, and Authorization for the HCA Director, or Designee to Sign, Agreement with Christopher A. Sarkiss, MD, Inc., for Medical Director and Attending Physician of Neurosurgery Services, in a Maximum Amount of \$605,000 for the Period of January 1, 2025, Through December 31, 2025, and \$570,000 per Contract Year Thereafter; Delegation of Authority to the HCA Director, or Designee to Make Limited Modifications and Extend the Term of the Agreements.

Recommendations:

1. That your Board approve, and authorize the HCA Director or designee to sign, an agreement with Nathan Carroll, M.D. (Dr. Carroll) for Assistant Chief Medical Informatics Officer services (Exhibit 1), in a maximum amount of \$262,600 per contract year, effective October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025, and up to two contract years thereafter;
2. That your Board approve, and authorize the HCA Director or designee to sign, an agreement with Christopher A. Sarkiss MD, Inc. (Dr. Sarkiss) for Medical Director, and Attending Physician of Neurosurgery Services (Exhibit 2), and set the purchase document amount at \$605,000 for the period of January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, and \$570,000 per contract year thereafter;
3. Authorization for the HCA Director or their designee to amend these agreements to (a) allocate funds between different compensation categories within the not-to-exceed amount specified in the purchase document; (b) make budget modifications that do not increase the total amount of the purchase document; (c) and implement corrections, clarifications, business entity name changes (including payment information), and technical adjustments to the agreements and purchase documents, provided that these changes align with the original purpose of the agreements and do not incur additional costs to the County. All amendments are subject to review and approval by County Counsel.

4. Authorization for the HCA Director or designee to extend the term of these agreements by amendment, for up to two (2) additional periods of one (1) year each following the completion of the initial agreement term, on the same or more favorable terms and conditions (with any changes in the Responsibilities of Contractor to be consistent with the original purpose of the agreement), and for up to a 25% increase (within the fair market value) of the not to exceed amount of the purchase documents.. All extensions would be subject to all necessary prior appropriations and other budgetary approvals by your Board and review and approval as to form by County Counsel.

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 these Agreements:

	<u>CY 2024-25</u>	<u>CY 2025-26</u>
REVENUE:	\$867,600	\$832,600
DIRECT COSTS:	\$867,600	\$832,600
INDIRECT COSTS:	Minor	Minor
Net revenue <cost>	\$0	\$0

Current Fiscal Year Budget:

Current FY 2024-25 Budget Projections for Ventura County Medical System #3300				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Actual	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Expenditures	\$720,985,484	\$720,985,484	\$720,985,484	\$0
Revenue	\$721,404,225	\$721,404,225	\$721,404,225	\$0
Operational Income/(Loss)	\$418,741	\$418,741	\$418,741	\$0

Sufficient revenue and appropriations are included in the FY 24-25 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 contracts for Contract Year 24-25:

Provider	Eff. Date	Current Contract Annual Maximum CY24-25	Proposed Contract Annual Maximum CY24-25
Dr. Carroll (Recommendation No.1)	10/1/2024	N/A	\$262,600
Dr. Sarkiss (Recommendation No.2)	1/1/2025	N/A	\$605,000
Total			\$867,600

Table 2 below summarizes the net financial impacts of the VCMC contracts for Contract Year 25-26:

Provider	Eff. Date	Current Contract Annual Maximum CY25-26	Proposed Contract Annual Maximum CY25-26
Dr. Carroll (Recommendation No.1)	10/1/2025	N/A	\$262,600
Dr. Sarkiss (Recommendation No.2)	01/1/2026	N/A	\$570,000
Total			\$832,600

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:

Dr. Carroll – The proposed contract presented to your Board is with Nathan Carroll, M.D. Dr. Carroll received his Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Iowa College of Medicine, in Iowa City, Iowa, in 2010. He completed his medical internship and residency at Ventura County Medical Center (VCMC), graduating in 2013. He is board-certified in family medicine and as of January 1, 2021, Dr. Carroll obtained board certification in clinical informatics from the American Board of Preventive Medicine.

The contract before your Board is a renewal agreement for the role of Assistant Chief Medical Informatics Officer (ACMIO). Dr. Carroll has been the ACMIO since May 2017

and has been assisting in the development of health informatics for the Health Care Agency. As ACMIO, Dr. Carroll assists in oversight of electronic health record (EHR) use, improves EHR functionality to satisfy the needs of clinical end-users, supports data analytics efforts for all required data submissions, and supports clinical improvement strategies through the use of data from the EHR. The agreement presented for your Board's review renews the existing terms and includes an overall increase in total compensation of \$24,460 per contract year. This adjustment is intended to align the rates with the current fair market value.

If approved, the agreement with Nathan Carroll, M.D., subject to all necessary budgetary approvals by your Board, shall be for an initial term of twelve (12) months, through September 30, 2025. Then, unless a party gives notice of intent not to renew at least ninety (90) days prior to the renewal date, and subject to the receipt of all necessary budgetary approvals by your Board, each agreement shall then be extended for up to two (2) additional periods of one (1) year each.


Dr. Sarkiss – The proposed contract presented to your Board is with Christopher Sarkiss, M.D. Dr. Sarkiss received his Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of California Los Angeles, in 2011. He then completed his chief residency in neurological surgery at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York. After this, he completed a fellowship in neurological oncology at the University of Miami Hospital and Clinics. Dr. Sarkiss has repeatedly made the Dean's Honor Roll as an undergraduate at UCLA.

Dr. Sarkiss is a new provider in our system, he is currently associated with Aurora Neuroscience Innovation Institute and also works in affiliation with Aurora Saint Luke's Medical Center and Providence Saint John's Health Center. His appointment to our neurosurgery department is expected to enhance the quality of our neurosurgical services. He will serve as the Neurosurgical Liaison to the Intensive Care Unit and as the Medical Director of Neurosurgical Oncology, Pituitary Program.

If approved, the agreement with Christopher Sarkiss, M.D., subject to all necessary budgetary approvals by your Board, shall be for an initial term of twelve (12) months, through December 31, 2025. Then, unless a party gives notice of intent not to renew at least ninety (90) days prior to the renewal date, and subject to the receipt of all necessary budgetary approvals by your Board, each agreement shall then be extended for up to two (2) additional periods of one (1) year each.

The portions of the agreements 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 the 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.



John Fankhauser, MD, MHA
Chief Executive Officer, County Hospitals



Theresa Cho, MD, MHA
Health Care Agency Director

Exhibits:

Exhibit 1 –Agreement for Assistant Chief Medical Informatics Officer with Nathan Carroll, M.D.

Exhibit 2 – Agreement for Medical Director and Attending Physician of Neurosurgery Services with Christopher A. Sarkiss MD, Inc.