

November 7, 2023

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

SUBJECT:

Adoption of a Resolution Adding Sixteen New Regular Full-Time Equivalent Positions Effective November 12, 2023, to Support Opening Nine Beds for Inpatient Detoxification Services at the Ventura County Medical Center.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Adopt a resolution (Exhibit 1) adding sixteen (16) new regular full-time equivalent positions effective November 12, 2023, to support opening nine beds for inpatient detoxification services at the Ventura County Medical Center, as presented herein.

Sixteen (16) full-time equivalent/seventeen (17) authorized positions to add:

Job Code	Position Title	FTE	AUTH	Annual Salary Range
00305	Registered Nurse II (0.9 FTE each)	9.0	10.0	\$97,913.59 - \$116,229.87
00157	Nursing Assistant II	4.0	4.0	\$33,738.90 - \$46,157.40
01330	Medical Office Assistant III	2.0	2.0	\$37,857.14 - \$52,939.36
01476	Alcohol & Drug Treatment Specialist III	1.0	1.0	\$53,750.54 - \$75,317.36

FISCAL IMPACT:

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

Summary of Annual Revenues and Costs:

	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25
REVENUE	\$ 3,395,803	\$ 5,433,285
DIRECT COSTS	\$ 1,490,752	\$ 2,385,203
INDIRECT COSTS	\$ 1,378,776	\$ 2,206,042
Net Revenue (Cost)	\$ 526,275	\$ 842,040

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.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) there were over 112,000 fatal overdoses across the United States in the 12-month period ending May 2023. That is the highest number of overdose deaths ever recorded in the United States in a single year. About 60 percent of those deaths are linked to illicitly manufactured or adulterated fentanyl. According to the CDC and a recent Washington Post analysis, fentanyl is now the leading cause of death for Americans of the ages 18 to 49, more than car accidents, suicides, or gun violence. Fentanyl arrived in Ventura County just before the COVID-19 pandemic with devastating effects. Both nationally and locally fentanyl quickly displaced heroin as the number one opioid of abuse and remains the leading cause of accidental overdose and poisoning, with a death toll of 181 individuals locally in 2022 alone.

Fentanyl has dramatically changed the drug landscape in America. But opioids alone are not the cause of all overdose deaths. According to the CDC, alcohol related deaths increased by 43 percent from 2006 to 2018 and remained high a year into the pandemic.

DISCUSSION:

To help address drug and alcohol overdoses locally, the Ventura County Medical Center (VCMC) plans to open nine beds for inpatient detoxification services to house patients who are undergoing withdrawal from drugs or alcohol. Currently patients who require inpatient detoxification services are sent out of the County by Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH). In collaboration with the VCBH leadership team, we project the number of clients who will be redirected to VCMC for acute detoxification services will result in a 90 percent occupancy within the first six months.

In order to support the expanded detoxification services, additional positions are requested. The registered nurse to patient ratio will be 1 to 5 (med-surg ratio). To support the unique needs of this patient population VCMC is also requesting nursing assistants for partial coverage (8 to 12 hours per day) and 8 hours per day of medical office assistant coverage. The full-time alcohol and drug counselor will be engaged in treatment plans for all patients. These patients will require frequent medications and close oversight.

This letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, County Counsel, and the Auditor-Controller's 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, M.D.
Chief Executive Officer, County Hospitals

Barry L. Zimmerman
Health Care Agency Director

Exhibit 1 – Resolution to Add Sixteen Full-Time Regular Positions at the Ventura County Medical Center