
Setting the Standard in Health Care Excellence

September 10, 2024

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93003

Subject:

Approval of the Appointment of Dr. Loretta Denering to the Ventura County Health Care Agency Community Health Center (CHC) Board as a Regular, Non-Consumer Member for a Three (3) Year Term (September 10, 2024 – September 9, 2027).

Recommendation:

That your Board Approve the appointment of Dr. Loretta Denering, Director of Ventura County Behavioral Health, to the Ventura County Health Care Agency (HCA) Community Health Center (CHC) Board, as a regular, non-consumer member of the CHC Board for a three (3) year term (September 10, 2024, through September 9, 2027).

Staffing Impacts:

Existing HCA staff will assume the minimal number of additional tasks and responsibilities associated with the appointment of Dr. Loretta Denering as a non-consumer member of the CHC Board.

Fiscal Impact:

There are no fiscal impacts or increased use of general fund resources associated with the recommended actions. All administrative tasks and responsibilities associated with the CHC Board are managed by existing HCA staff.

Discussion:

Ventura County's designation as a grantee under Section 330(e) of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act which is administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). This grant program is critical to being a progressive and modern health care agency. Nineteen (19) clinics in the County health care system are supported by HRSA grant funds. These clinics are known as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). They currently treat over 95,000 patients per year as well as more than 5,000 patients who are part of the Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) program. FQHCs are

considered “safety net” providers and as a result are compensated at higher reimbursement rates from Medi-Cal and Medicare because of their “safety net” status. In addition to ensuring favorable reimbursement rates, the HRSA grant program also funds a variety of other projects such as dental care for children and homeless adults, and mental health and substance abuse treatment programs.

Established by your Board in June 2015, the CHC Board is a mandatory condition of recognition as FQHCs. The CHC Board assists HCA in its mission to provide comprehensive health care that is quality-driven, affordable, and culturally competent to the people of Ventura County. Federal regulations require that the CHC Board be comprised of both patients of the CHCs and community members. It is helpful if at least some CHC Board members possess expertise in business, health administration, finance, community affairs, education, housing and shelter, insurance, marketing, public relations, and/or health or social services. All prospective CHC Board Members are subject to a background check. Article IV of the CHC Board By-Laws states that the Board will be comprised of up to eleven (11) members, the majority of which are to be patients of the CHC health system.

Dr. Loretta Denering has almost 20 years of experience in public healthcare services and currently serves as the Ventura County Behavioral Health Director. In Dr. Denering’s current role, she serves the same, if not similar, populations to those served by the Community Health Centers. Additionally, Dr. Denering has experience on various Boards, Commissions, and Committees. The current Board Members voted to recommend her appointment during the June 27, 2024, CHC Board Meeting.

This Board letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, Auditor-Controller’s Office, and County Counsel. If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact Theresa Cho, MD, HCA Director, at (805) 677-5272.



Theresa Cho, MD, MHA
Health Care Agency Director

Exhibit 1 – Dr. Loretta Denering CHC Board Application