

February 6, 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, the First Amendment to the Agreement with Children's Hospital Los Angeles Medical Group, Inc., for Medical Director, Pediatric Neurology Services, Effective February 6, 2024, Modifying the Responsibilities.

Recommendation:

That your Board approve, and authorize the Purchasing Agent or designee to sign, the first amendment to the agreement for Medical Director, Pediatric Neurology Services with Children's Hospital Los Angeles Medical Group, Inc. (CHLA), effective February 6, 2024, modifying the responsibilities.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no additional fiscal impact with this item.

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 amendment before your Board is for pediatric neurology services provided through a joint recruitment effort between the Health Care Agency (HCA) and CHLA. The last successful recruitment in pediatric neurology was in 1991 when HCA recruited William Goldie, M.D. Dr. Goldie began to reduce his hours approximately 15 years ago and since then HCA has been searching for another pediatric neurologist. Through a joint effort with CHLA, we finally had success in recruiting Abbey Freed, D.O. Through the arrangement with CHLA, Dr. Freed will spend 90 percent of her time providing services


at HCA, and HCA will pay CHLA 90 percent of her compensation, subject to an annual not-to-exceed amount. This is similar to HCA's arrangement with CHLA for pediatric oncology services. Since Dr. Freed's arrival, she has provided excellent care and has a good rapport with patients, families, staff and colleagues, and is an asset to the growing pediatric services provided through County health facilities.

Dr. Freed not only offers outpatient pediatric neurology services but also provides consultations for pediatric patients admitted to the Ventura County Medical Center Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and the inpatient pediatric ward. This arrangement enables residents of Ventura County to receive subspecialty care locally, thereby reducing the need for transferring patients to tertiary care centers in Los Angeles. Under the proposed amendment, Dr. Freed will continue these duties, and also continue in her role as Medical Director, Pediatric Neurology Services.

The proposed amendment changes the current contract to clarify that the compensation paid to CHLA is based on a percentage of Dr. Freed's compensation, rather than a base monthly amount paid for services provided by CHLA.

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, or Theresa Cho, M.D., Chief Executive Officer, Ambulatory Care, at 805-677-5223.



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

Theresa Cho, M.D.
Chief Executive Officer, Ambulatory Care

Barry L. Zimmerman
Health Care Agency Director

Attachment:

Exhibit 1 – First Amendment to Agreement with Children's Hospital Los Angeles Medical Group, Inc., for Medical Director, Pediatric Neurology Services