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*Setting the Standard in Health Care Excellence*

June 18, 2024

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

**Subject:**

**Ratification, Approval of, and Authorization for the Health Care Agency (HCA) Director or Designee to Accept, the Comparing Hypertension Remote Monitoring Evaluation Redesign (CHARMED) Grant Award in the Amount of \$2,489,303 Effective August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 through November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2029, from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF); Approval of, and Authorization for the HCA Director or Designee to Execute, a Research Subaward Agreement with the Regents of the University of California to conduct CHARMED Grant Activities; Approval of, and Authorization for the HCA Director or his Designee to Execute, a Data Transfer and Use Agreement with UCSF; Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the Addition of Two Fixed Term Full-Time Positions to the HCA Ambulatory Care Department; Approval of and Authorization for the Auditor Controller Office to Process Necessary Related Accounting Transactions to Revise Appropriations and Revenues. RECOMMENDATION NO. 6 REQUIRES 4/5THS VOTE.**

**Recommendations:**

1. That your Board ratify, approve, and accept, the Comparing Hypertension Remote Monitoring Evaluation Redesign (CHARMED) grant award in the amount of \$2,489,303 effective August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, through November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2029.
2. That your Board approve, and authorize the HCA Director or designee to execute, a Research Subaward Agreement with the Regents of the University of California to conduct CHARMED grant activities (Exhibit 1).
3. That your Board approve, and authorize the HCA Director or designee to execute, a data transfer and use agreement with the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) to conduct CHARMED grant activities (Exhibit 2).
4. That your Board authorize the HCA Director or Designee to execute amendments to the Research Subaward Agreement and the Data Transfer and Use Agreement (a) to approve modifications to increase the amount of each agreement, (b) to approve budget modifications that do not increase the amount of the agreement,

(c) to approve corrections, clarifications and technical changes and modifications to each agreement, when the changes are consistent with the original purpose of the agreement and do not result in additional costs to the County, and (d) to revise or add language applicable to providers as required by UCSF or PCORI, subject to County Counsel review and approval.

5. That your Board adopt a resolution (Exhibit 3) authorizing the addition of two Fixed Term Full-Time positions that will be grant funded May 2024 through November 2029.

ADD:

<b>Job Code</b>	<b>Classification Title</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>Range (monthly)</b>	<b>Annual Salary</b>
00406	Community Services Coordinator	1	\$5,094.72 - \$7,142.05	\$61,136.59 - \$85,704.64
01174	Senior Program Administrator	1	\$7,645.10- \$10,704.19	\$91,741.21- \$128,450.31

6. That your Board authorize the Auditor-Controller to process the necessary accounting transactions to revise appropriations and revenues as follows (this recommendation requires 4/5ths vote):

Fund E500 VCMS

INCREASE	3300-3301	Intergovernmental Revenues	\$2,489,303
INCREASE	3300-3301	Salaries & Benefits	\$2,489,303

**Summary of Annual Revenues and Costs Under this Agreement for Ventura County Medical Center Hospital #3301:**

	<u>FY 2024-2025</u>	<u>FY2025-2026</u>
Revenue:	\$397,405	\$542,598
Direct Cost:	\$397,405	\$542,598
Indirect Cost:	\$0	\$0
Net County Cost	\$0	\$0

**Reason for Ratification:**

The CHARMED grant is a federal grant from the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) that was initiated with the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Ventura County Ambulatory Care is serving as a subcontractor to UCSF. Delays occurred in UCSF obtaining Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval, which is required prior to grant funds flowing from the federal government to UCSF. Additional time was also needed to negotiate details of the Research Subaward Agreement.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Mandatory: No  
Source of Funding: University of California, San Francisco and Patient  
Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)  
Funding Match Required: No  
Impact on Other Departments: Minimal

**Summary of Annual Revenues and Costs Under this Agreement for Ventura  
County Medical Center Hospital #3301:**

	FY 2023-24	FY2024-25
Revenue:	\$397,405	\$542,598
Direct Cost:	\$397,405	\$542,598
Indirect Cost:	\$0	\$0
Net County Cost	\$0	\$0

FY 2023-24 Budget Projections for Ventura County Medical Center #3300				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Actual	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Expenditures	\$673,790,899	\$721,214,436	\$676,277,276	\$44,937,160
Revenue	\$665,452,626	\$682,772,959	\$672,052,975	(\$10,719,984)
Operational Income/(Loss)	(\$8,338,273)	(\$38,441,477)	(\$4,224,301)	\$34,217,176

**The Comparing Hypertension Remote Monitoring Evaluation Redesign (CHARMED) grant  
award will be used as follows:**

Description	Budget
Program Personnel (salary and benefits)	\$397,405
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$397,405</b>

All CHARMED funds beyond the cost of the two new positions will offset the salaries of current ambulatory care staff who will support study activities. Other programmatic study costs, such as the provision of blood pressure cuffs and patient incentives for study participation will be paid directly by UCSF to participating patients.

**Background:**

Over 115 million Americans have hypertension, the leading risk factor for cardiovascular disease and the most common cause of preventable death and disability in the United States. Locally, Ventura County Ambulatory Care clinics care for over 40,000 individuals with hypertension annually. High quality research conducted at Kaiser Permanente and the San Francisco Health Network has demonstrated that following system-wide protocols improves blood pressure control across a clinic's population. When Kaiser Permanente Northern California adopted a multicomponent blood pressure control algorithm, their blood pressure control rates increased from 44% to 90% over 13 years.

In March of 2023, the University of California, San Francisco was awarded a national grant from the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute called Comparing Hypertension Remote Monitoring Evaluation Redesign (CHARMED). CHARMED will evaluate different methodologies for clinics to implement blood pressure monitoring protocols, home blood pressure monitoring, and blood pressure patient education. Ventura County Ambulatory Care collaborated with UCSF to submit the CHARMED grant and is one of three sites for the CHARMED trial. CHARMED will use patient and staff input to design study protocols and create patient facing education materials in English, Spanish, and indigenous languages. The trial will last five years including the time it takes to develop materials and study protocols, enroll patients in the study, and conduct data analysis.

From March 2023, until the present day, UCSF has been working with PCORI on the contracting for the grant, receiving approval from its Institutional Review Board (IRB) and obtaining approval from the Ventura County Medical Center IRB. Now that IRB approval is complete on both sides, contracting between the two entities can move forward. CHARMED is an unprecedented opportunity for the Ventura County Medical System to become a leader in blood pressure management and contribute to the scientific literature alongside nationally recognized scientists who specialize in public healthcare systems. It is also an opportunity for Ventura County residents served at our clinics to provide input into what may become national best practices in blood pressure control.

### **Discussion:**

Ventura County Ambulatory Care will have 10 clinics participating in the CHARMED study between June of 2024 and September of 2029. In the first phase of the study, researchers will co-design the blood pressure management protocol and materials with clinic staff and patients. This first phase will conclude in the summer of 2024.

The second phase will begin in the summer of 2024. In the second phase of the study the 10 clinics will be randomized to receive either one-time training and materials to support their care of patients with high blood pressure or UCSF experts regularly coaching clinic staff to help move towards best practices in blood pressure management. Local study staff at HCA will recruit approximately 850 patients across the 10 clinics to participate in the study. After patients provide informed consent, they will receive home blood pressure cuffs and report their blood pressure as well as other information to study personnel. The

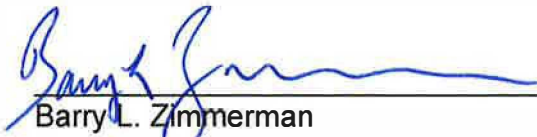
second phase will end in January of 2027. January 2027 through the end of the study period in 2029 will be dedicated to ongoing patient follow up and data analysis.

After the conclusion of the trial in 2029, Ventura County Ambulatory Care will re-deploy study personnel to train all ambulatory clinics in the blood pressure management practices that are determined to be optimal during the study. These staff will enhance our population health work, which supports the achievement of the rigorous blood pressure control targets that have been set by both the State of California through the Quality Incentive Pool (QIP program) and the Gold Coast Health Plan Quality Incentive Program and Plan (QIPP). Those incentive programs are expected to tie approximately \$5 million annually to blood pressure control in 2029, so that staff time spent on study activities may be offset by achieving QIP and QIPP targets.

This letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, CEO-HR, County Counsel, and Auditor-Controller's Office. If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact Theresa Cho, MD Ambulatory Care Director at (805) 677-5223.



Theresa Cho, MD  
CEO, Ambulatory Care



Barry L. Zimmerman  
Health Care Agency Director

**Attachments:**

- Exhibit 1 - CHARMED Research Subaward Agreement with the Regents of the University of California
- Exhibit 2 - Data Transfer and Use Agreement with the University of California, San Francisco
- Exhibit 3 - Resolution Adding of Two Fixed Term Positions to Support CHARMED Study