

May 14, 2024

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

**SUBJECT:**

**Approval of, and Authorization for the Health Care Agency Director or Designee to Sign, a Second Four-Month Letter of Agreement Extension, from May 1, 2024 through August 31, 2024, Between Kaiser Foundation Hospitals and the County of Ventura, for Acute Care Pediatric Services, Pending the Completion of a Comprehensive Services Agreement.**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That your Board approve, and authorize the Health Care Agency (HCA) Director or Designee to sign, a second four-month Letter of Agreement Extension (LOA Second Extension), from May 1, 2024 through August 31, 2024, between Kaiser Foundation Hospitals (KFH) and the County of Ventura, for acute care pediatric services, pending the completion of a comprehensive services agreement.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no measurable fiscal impact at this time as this is a new business for Ventura County Medical Center (VCMC).

**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:**

KFH and the County of Ventura signed a temporary Pediatric Services Letter of Agreement, effective October 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, which was later extended through April 30, 2024, pending completion of negotiations for a more comprehensive health care services agreement between the parties. KFH requested a pediatric hospital services agreement in preparation for the October 1, 2023 transition of pediatric services from Community Memorial Hospital (CMH) to VCMC. Since VCMC

already serves other non-pediatric Kaiser members that are admitted through the emergency room, KFH and VCMC agreed to negotiate a full-service hospital agreement. Negotiations have progressed but the parties require additional time to finalize contract language. The parties estimate that an additional 90-120 days will be needed to finalize the contractual terms and conditions.

This LOA Second Extension is entered into between KFH, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation, on behalf of its Southern California region, and the County as owner and operator of VCMC. The Letter of Agreement sets forth the parties' nonexclusive contractual arrangement for acute care pediatric services provided at VCMC to pediatric members of Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc. and pediatric members of fully insured plans of Kaiser Permanente Insurance Company.

The portions of the agreement concerning compensation paid to 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 agreements are retained by Mike Taylor, HCA Chief Financial Officer.

This letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, County Counsel, and Auditor-Controller's Office. If you have any questions regarding this item, please call Paul Jaconette, MPH, Director of Strategy and Business Development at 805-677-5105.

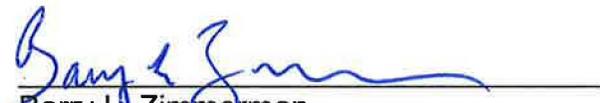
  
Barry L. Zimmerman  
Health Care Agency Director

Exhibit 1: Letter of Agreement Second Extension