

Setting the Standard in Health Care Excellence

September 15, 2020

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

Subject:

Approval of the Appointments of Amy Towner, Espy Gonzalez, Susan White Wood and David Tovar to the County of Ventura Community Health Center (CHC) Board as New Regular, Consumer Members; Approval of the Reappointments of Rena Sepulveda as an Alternate Member and Manuel Minjares as a Regular Consumer Member to the CHC Board.

Recommendations:

1. That your Board approve appointments to the County of Ventura Community Health Center (CHC) Board as follows: Amy Towner and Espy Gonzalez as regular, consumer members effective August 1, 2019 through July 31, 2022, Susan White Wood as a regular, consumer member effective September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2022, and David Tovar as a regular, consumer member effective August 1, 2020 through August 1, 2023.
2. That your Board approve reappointments to the CHC Board as follows: Rena Sepulveda as an alternate member and Manuel Minjares as a regular, consumer member for additional three-year terms effective June 20, 2020 through June 20, 2023 and June 2, 2020 through June 2, 2023, respectively.

Discussion:

Ventura County's designation as a CHC (section 330(e)) grantee under the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant is critical to being a progressive and modern health care agency. Eighteen (18) clinics in the County health care system are operated with HRSA grant funds. These clinics are known as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and they currently treat more than 106,000 patients per year as well as the close to 12,000 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 greater reimbursement rates, the HRSA grant also funds a variety of other projects such as dental care for children and homeless adults, mental health and substance abuse treatment programs and HIV programs. The

HRSA grant also ensures significant discounts on pharmaceuticals for many low-income patients.

Established by your Board in June 2015, the CHC Board is a mandatory condition of the HRSA grant. 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 consumers and community members. CHC Board members must possess expertise in business, health administration, finance, community affairs, education, housing and shelter, insurance, marketing, public relations, and/or other health and social services. All prospective CHC Board members are carefully selected and subject to a background check. Article IV of the CHC Board By-Laws states that the Board will be comprised of eleven (11) regular members, the majority of which are to be consumers of the CHC health system.

The CHC Board voted unanimously to nominate Amy Towner to the CHC Board during its June 27, 2019 meeting and recommends that she be appointed as a regular, consumer board member. Ms. Towner is the co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Health Care Foundation for Ventura County. She is committed to the Ventura County Health Care Agency and supports its mission to provide quality healthcare to the residents of Ventura County. In 2019, Ms. Towner was recognized by Pacific Coast Business Times as a Champion in Healthcare Philanthropy. Ms. Towner holds a Masters of Business Administration with the additional certification of Healthcare Management and Leadership from Pepperdine University. Ms. Towner's experience, education, and commitment to the Ventura County Health Care Agency make her a great addition to the CHC Board.

The CHC Board voted unanimously to nominate Espy Gonzalez to the CHC Board during its June 27, 2019 meeting and recommends that she be appointed as a regular, consumer board member. Ms. Gonzalez is a long time resident of Ventura County and has been employed by the County of Ventura for over 20 years. Ms. Gonzalez works for the Ventura County Human Services Agency under Adult and Family Services as a Program Manager for the RAIN Transition Living Center. Ms. Gonzalez is a current patient of the CHC. These are the qualities that make Ms. Gonzalez a great addition to the CHC Board.

The CHC Board voted unanimously to nominate Susan White Wood to the CHC Board during its August 22, 2019 meeting. Ms. White Wood is a long time resident of Ventura County and is currently the Ventura County Behavioral Health Department's Housing Manager. Ms. White Wood was the former manager for the HRSA grant and is familiar with the compliance regulations for the grant, including CHC Board responsibilities and oversight. Ms. White Wood also held a position as the Health Care for the Homeless program manager and is committed to serving vulnerable populations. Ms. White Wood is a current patient of the CHC. These are the qualities that make Ms. White Wood a great addition to the CHC Board.

The CHC Board voted unanimously to nominate David Tovar to the CHC Board during its July 23, 2020 meeting and recommends that he be appointed as a regular, consumer board member. Mr. Tovar has been employed with the County of Ventura for seven years and currently holds the position of Program Administrator for the Ventura County Behavioral Health Department's Substance Use Services program. Mr. Tovar is a patient of the CHC and a resident of Oxnard. Mr. Tovar has experience and knowledge in behavioral health management, health care legislation, community affairs, and social services within the community and is committed to providing health care services to the underserved and vulnerable populations of Ventura County. Mr. Tovar's experience and commitment make him a strong candidate for the CHC Board.

Your Board appointed Rena Sepulveda to a three-year term effective June 20, 2017, and Manuel Minjares was appointed by your Board to a three-year term effective June 2, 2017. The CHC Board recommends that your Board reappoint Ms. Sepulveda and Mr. Minjares to additional three-year terms. Both Ms. Sepulveda and Mr. Minjares have been instrumental in the CHC Board and have continued commitment to its mission to provide access to healthcare in Ventura County.

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, Ambulatory Care CEO, at (805) 677-5272.



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William Foley
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