

February 28, 2023

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

Subject:

Receive and File the 2021-22 Annual Activity Report for the County of Ventura Community Health Center Board.

Recommendation:

1. Receive and file the 2021-22 Annual Activity Report for the County of Ventura Community Health Center Board.

Discussion:

The county's designation as a Community Health Center (CHC) under the Health Resources and Services Agency (HRSA) grant (section 330(e)) is critical to being progressive and well positioned to take full advantage of the benefits that come from this special status. The eighteen (18) clinics that constitute the County's CHC are known as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). Currently, the FQHCs are managing more than 104,000 unique patients a year, of which over 12,000 are provided service through the Health Care for the Homeless program. Since the County's FQHCs are considered "safety net" providers, they are compensated at higher reimbursement rates from Medi-Cal and Medicare than the County's non-FQHC clinics. The goals of the CHC system is to improve access to quality health care for the community with a focus on the underserved people, such as the homeless. In addition to ensuring greater reimbursement rates for patient visits, the HRSA grant also funds a variety of other projects, such as access to dental care, mental health services, substance use disorder treatment program, health care for the homeless, community outreach and benefits assistance, health education, and HIV prevention/treatment programs.

Established by your board in June of 2015, the CHC Board is a mandatory condition of the HRSA grant. The CHC Board guides the Health Care Agency (HCA) in its mission to provide comprehensive health care that is quality-driven, affordable, and culturally competent to the people of Ventura County. The CHC Board is actively engaged in the provision of high quality health care for the community, which aligns with the County's Mission, Vision and Values. The CHC Board meets monthly to review and approve such items as the CHC budget, clinical hours of operation (including after-hours access), licensing and privileging of all CHC providers, any clinic closures or additions of service, identification of service gaps and community needs, billing and collection processes (including the mandated sliding fee discount policy), and access to care, specifically for the uninsured and underinsured. Additionally, the CHC Board approves all new programs and grant applications. In 2021-22, the CHC Board approved a budget of over \$19.3 million in grants that includes HRSA base funding and supplemental grants to increase access in COVID-19 treatment, improved blood pressure control through home blood pressure cuffs, and capital improvement and infrastructure. In addition, the CHC received two quality awards from HRSA for advancing health information technology for quality and addressing social risk factors.

This letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, County Counsel, and Auditor-Controller's Office. If you have any questions regarding these recommendations, please contact Theresa Cho, MD at 805-677-5223.



Theresa Cho, M.D.
Chief Executive Officer and Medical Director, Ambulatory Care



Barry L. Zimmerman
Health Care Agency Director

Attachments:

Exhibit 1 – CHC Board Annual Activity Report FY 2021-22