

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO CALIFORNIA

For the Agenda of:
June 17, 2008

To: Board of Supervisors
From: Department of Health and Human Services
Subject: Report Back On Capital Health Clinic Neighborhood Issues
Contact: Lynn Frank, Director, 875-2002

BACKGROUND

Due to revenue shortfalls throughout the County and within the Department of Health and Human Services, the Primary Health Services Division's Clinic Services was required to reduce its Fiscal Year 2008-09 Requested Proposed Budget by approximately \$5 million. As a result Capital Health Clinic, among others, was proposed for closure. However, this clinic is a vital element in the system of care for the homeless and, as such, is the Department of Health and Human Services' first funding priority should funds be available.

However, the Alkali Flats Neighborhood has complained about vagrancy and loitering near Capital Clinic and the park. The Board requested a Report Back on how those issues would be ameliorated if Capital Clinic were funded.

DISCUSSION

The Capital Clinic facility is scheduled for a remodel which will be amortized over the life of the lease. The new lease amount is included in the Capital Clinic budget. A start date for construction hasn't been set because of the uncertainty of the site's continuance. Once construction is started, it will take 60 to 90 days to complete. As part of that remodel, the lobby will be enlarged to accommodate 29% more clients, an increase from 58 to 75. Clients would no longer need to wait outside the Clinic because of lack of lobby seating. The Department understands that the current patient flow for the Dental Clinic is a problem and will stagger its appointment schedule to avoid large numbers of patients waiting for service in the lobby, parking lot, or street. Should Capital Clinic be closed, the Dental Clinic will relocate to the Primary Care Center. This will require some one-time moving and renovation costs.

Capital Clinic and Department of Health and Human Services management staff will meet with the Alkali Flats Neighborhood Association to hear and address their concerns. It is important that the Clinic is a good neighbor. Some form of this clinic has been a part of this neighborhood since the 1940s.

While Department of Health and Human Services accepts responsibility in contributing to safety and security in the neighborhood, the vast majority of persons accessing medical or dental care at the Capital Health Clinic are only in the area of the clinic seeking that care. There are other factors in this area of town that contribute to vagrancy and loitering near the park.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:
TERRY SCHUTTEN
County Executive

LYNN FRANK, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

By: _____
PENELOPE CLARKE, Administrator
Countywide Services Agency