

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 Operating Medical Clinics Three Days A Week Versus Complete Closure

Contact: Lynn Frank, Director, 875-2002

Background

Due to current 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 net count cost by approximately \$5 million. Three clinics--Primary Care, Del Paso, and South City--provide 85 percent of the 152,000 annual medical visits. In addition, these clinics provide basic care to the medically indigent population. Setting aside these highest priority clinics, only three were left to absorb a portion of the \$5 million cut: Northeast, Oak Park, and Capital. These three clinics are open 8-5 Monday through Friday. On Saturday mornings, medical student clinics operate in the Oak Park and Capital Clinics. The seventh clinic, Loaves and Fishes, is not included in this discussion since it is a joint operation by the County and Mercy Hospital. The chart below summarizes the reduction in net county cost in the FY 08-09 proposed budget.

Clinic	FY 08-09 Budgeted Net County Cost	% Total Medical visits	Services Provided	Unique Services
Northeast	\$560,549	5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cervical and breast cancer screening
Oak Park exclusive of Care A Van	\$769,641	5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health • Pediatric Primary Care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pediatric health care
Capital	\$515,689	5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthcare for the homeless • Public Health • Primary Care • Dental Care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dental Care
Total	\$1,845,879			

In addition there is over \$500,000 of cost that is not eliminated resulting from the closure of these Clinics. These costs were reallocated to the remaining clinics. Therefore, the total appropriations included in requested proposed budget for the above Clinics is \$2.3M.

Public health services include treatment of sexually transmitted infections, screening for tuberculosis, family planning, and routine immunizations. All of the unique services provided at the above clinics will be available at the three remaining clinics at a reduced level of service and with reduced access.

The majority of clients served at the Oak Park and Northeast sites do not reside in the areas where the clinics are located. For example, 70% of pediatric patients who seek care at Oak Park Clinic reside in zip codes outside of the Oak Park neighborhood. If the Oak Park site is closed, these clients can access services, albeit at a reduced level than is currently available, at the South City Clinic 4.2 miles away or at the Primary Care Center less than a mile from Oak Park.

The majority of persons who receive care at the Northeast Health Center are referred to that site for woman's health from other County clinics and similarly do not reside in the neighborhood where the clinic is located. Seventy-two percent of clients who seek services at the Northeast Health Center reside in the zip codes outside of Citrus Heights. Since budget reductions in Fiscal Year 2003-2004 (reduction of 13.5 FTE), CMISP eligible clients from the areas surrounding the Northeast Clinic have received their primary care from one of the three primary care clinics (Del Paso, Primary Care Center, and South City).

The Capital Health Clinic is unique in that it serves primarily homeless persons. The clinic is located in a neighborhood where many other services are available for this population (i.e., Mercy Loaves and Fishes, Salvation Army). The Dental Clinic is the only site for dental care for CMISP clients in the entire County. While the total percentage of medical visits provided at this site is relatively small in comparison to the other primary care clinics, closure of this site will create a significant barrier to access to care for the homeless population. Closure of this site will also require re-locating the Dental Clinic to another location. The six part time volunteer physicians from the Sacramento Sierra Valley Medical Society SPIRIT Program currently working at this clinic would be re-located to the Primary Care Center.

If all three sites are closed, DHHS will negotiate with the medical student run clinics to try to identify an alternative site for these clinics to operate. The approximate direct cost to the County of housing these medical student run clinics is one-sixth the operational costs of the Oak Park and Capital Clinics, or \$31,142 and \$73,886. The County also assumes an indeterminate financial risk associated with providing medical malpractice insurance as a self insured entity for the care provided at these clinics.

Discussion

The Board asked for a report back on the option of opening these three clinics for three days a week rather than closing them.

DHHS is presenting four options for keeping these three sites open part time or with reduced staffing. The associated costs appear below. The minimum staffing to conduct business in these scenarios is a Senior Health Program Coordinator, one Physician, two Medical assistants, one

Senior Office Assistant, and one Office Assistant. DHHS is advocating option 1 based on practicality, least impact on clients, and lowest cost.

Option 1: Capital Health Clinic operates five days a week 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Oak Park and Northeast closed. DHHS recommends this option given the fragility of the homeless population, the minimal contribution to the total number of medical visits provided at Oak Park and Northeast Clinics, and the proximity of other clinics to provide services for clients currently served at Oak Park.

The net county cost to implement Option 1 is \$1,035,093.

Option 2: Capital Health Clinic, Northeast Health Center, Oak Park Clinic operate three days a week 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. This scenario is the least practical, provides the lowest savings, and is the most difficult to staff since it requires that we have three part time teams (all positions 0.6 FTE).

The net county cost to implement Option 2 is \$1,853,365.

Option 3: Capital Health Clinic operates three days a week 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Northeast operates 2 days a week with shared staff.

The net county cost to implement Option 3 is \$1,193,099.

Option 4: Capital Health Clinic operates three days a week 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Northeast and Oak Park operate one day a week 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

The net county cost to implement Option 4 is \$1,379,952.

A list of free and low cost clinics available in the community to serve county residents is attached. These clinics can take over some limited services provided at the clinic proposed for closure. This would include clients receiving Public Health services such as sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment or for Women's Health Services, who are seen under the Family Pact and the Every Woman Counts Medi-Cal based programs. However, the attached list of clinics do not relieve the County from providing medical care services to it medically indigent clients.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPROVED:
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County Executive

By: _____
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