

September 21, 2010

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: Department of Health and Human Services Requests "Beilenson Hearing"

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Conduct Beilenson Hearing as required by California Health and Safety Code §1442.5 to receive public input regarding proposed service reduction in the Division of Public Health and adopt the service reduction effective September 27, 2010.

SUMMARY: The Department proposes a reduction in the number of weekly clinics designated for Tuberculosis (TB) related appointments from three 4-hour clinics per week to two 4-hr clinics per week representing a 33% decrease, approximately 1,300 appointment slots per year. Specifically, the Department proposes to eliminate the Wednesday 8 am-12 pm clinic as these TB clinic appointment slots are the least frequently used by patients. Secondly the Department proposes a reduction in the number of weekly hours designated for immunization (IZ) related appointments from 14 hours to 12 hours a week, representing a 14% decrease, approximately 728 appointment slots per year. Specifically, the Department proposes to eliminate the Friday 10 am-12 pm appointment slots. The Department proposes this restructuring to reflect actual clinic appointment usage and to more efficiently use staff time while assuring sufficient number of clinics remain to accommodate patient needs.

The proposed reductions are set forth in the attached Notice of Public Hearing. The Notice of Public Hearing indicates the number of people directly affected by the proposed service reductions. However, it is important to note that the same number of patients will continue to be served as appointment slots now exceed actual patient use. Patient accessibility to clinic staff to answer phone queries and conduct non-appointment based activity will be preserved. For FY 08/09 and FY 09/10, only 67% of the designated TB clinic and 84% of the designated IZ clinic appointment slots were utilized. The remaining TB and IZ Clinic appointment slots and the availability of walk-in appointments will meet patient need.

California Health and Safety Code Section 1442.5 requires a specified method of notice and hearing regarding certain public health program cuts, commonly called "Beilenson Hearings". In accordance with this statute, the Department posted the attached Notice of Public Hearing, at its various health care facilities throughout the County since September 3, 2010, more than fourteen days prior to this hearing. Additionally, the Department has provided a 24-hour special information line.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS: The hearing presents an opportunity for the public to provide input to your Board prior to the adoption of the service reductions.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact associated with this request. The proposed action reduces the number of unused appointment slots and allows staff to perform other clinic duties.

Reviewed By:	Department of Finance	[]	N/A	[X]
	County Counsel	[X]	N/A	[]
	Human Resources	[]	N/A	[X]

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Meredith, Ph.D.
Director

SAP Document Number: No SAP document required