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May 28, 2009

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Board Members;

SUBJECT: Approve in Concept the "Detoxification Services Program", a New Blended Approach for Cherry Hill Detoxification Center and Safe House Sobering Center

RECOMMENDATION

1. Approve in concept the reconfiguration of the existing services at Cherry Hill Detoxification Center and the Safe House Sobering Center into one new Program operated by Horizon Services Inc. of Hayward, CA in order to increase coordination between the two services and allow a more cost effective and efficient approach to represent both services with medical and law enforcement agencies as well as other community-based organizations throughout Alameda County. The facilities are located in close proximity on the Fairmont Hospital Campus in San Leandro, CA.

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION/FINDINGS

Your Board awarded service contracts in 2007 to two Alameda County Providers to operate the programs (Horizon Services for Cherry Hill Detoxification Services and HIV Education and Prevention Project of Alameda County for the Safe House Sobering Center). The programs operated independently although both are 24/7 facilities that provide both incoming and outgoing transport for the consumers. Both programs currently serve Alameda County residents suffering from the debilitating effects of alcohol and substance over-use and frequently co-occurring mental illnesses. Safe House is a short-stay facility with an average length of stay of 4-6 hours and Cherry Hill has an average length of stay of 3-5 days.

The new approach will provide one central intake process of assessment enabling all consumers to be directed to the facility/program that will best suit their needs at that time. It will offer a transparent opportunity for consumers to easily move to the next level of services, or to be served repeatedly at either facility when that best meets their needs. This population is long known as resistant to traditional intervention strategies and the new Blended Detoxification Program Approach offers a unique opportunity for both the consumer and the community to participate in a broader range of services under the efficient operations of one Provider. HCSA, in collaboration with the Detox Advisory Board, will oversee and monitor the new services to insure that the efficiencies in operations and cost savings are maintained and that the transition from separately operated programs to the new blended approach will result in services at both facilities July 1, 2009.

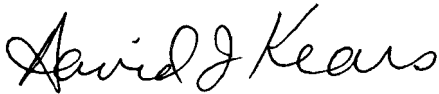
It has been well demonstrated over the past 15 months that maintaining the facilities as separate entities was neither cost effective nor efficient programmatically. The requested reconfiguration of detoxification services is unanimously supported by the Detox Advisory Board and offers the community an enhanced program with a cost savings.

All costs associated with the reconfiguration of the new Detoxification services Program are within existing Measure A allocations. Your Board's approval of these recommendations provides another key link in our fragile chain of critical services addressing the needs of many of the county's most vulnerable populations.

FINANCING:

Approval of the recommendations as stated in this Board letter will have no negative impact on County general fund revenues.

Sincerely,



David J. Kears, Director
Health Care Services Agency

Cc: County Administrator
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller
Director, BHCS