

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

862



SUBMITTAL DATE:
January 14, 2004

FROM: Executive Office

SUBJECT: Compensating Rancho Springs Medical Center for conducting forensic examinations of sexual assault victims

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Direct the County Executive Office to work with the Sheriff, District Attorney and Rancho Springs Medical Center to establish an agreement that will allow Rancho Springs to recover the full cost of providing forensic examinations of sexual assault victims and submit for Board approval within 60 days.

BACKGROUND:

During opening comments of the Board of Supervisors meeting on January 4, 2005, Supervisor Jeff Stone requested that the County consider compensating Rancho Springs Medical Center for conducting forensic examinations of sexual assault victims. Supervisor Stone requested that this issue be included as an agenda item this week.

Penal Code §13823.9(b) requires that counties with more than 100,000 residents arrange to have professional personnel trained in examining sexual assault victims. Riverside County Regional Medical Center (RCRMC) provided sexual assault examinations to the majority of victims in western Riverside County until December 2003. RCRMC stopped providing the examinations

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Dan Martinez

Dan Martinez, Principal Management Analyst

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 0	In Current Year Budget:	N/A
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	N/A
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	04/05

SOURCE OF FUNDS:	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: **APPROVE**

County Executive Office Signature *Rhonda King*

- Policy
- Policy
- Consent
- Consent

Dep't Recomm.:
Per Exec. Ofc.:

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Background (continued)

due to key personnel turnover. Because hiring and training staff has been a time-consuming process, services at RCRMC did not resume until earlier this month. RCRMC now provides examinations on a limited basis (five days per week during the day shift) and plans to transition to a full-time basis in the next few months.

County compliance with Penal Code §13823.0(b) has been achieved in the past year with other hospitals providing examinations that would have otherwise been provided at RCRMC. Facilities such as Corona Regional Medical Center, Rancho Springs Medical Center, John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital, Eisenhower Medical Center and other nearby hospitals in San Bernardino County have provided examinations of Riverside County sexual assault victims in the past year.

Rancho Springs Medical Center in Murrieta experienced an increase from approximately five forensic exams per month to 20 exams per month since RCRMC stopped providing the service. The hospital director at Rancho Springs reports that the facility has experienced a financial deficit of approximately \$100,000 for 2004 and is requesting funding from the County of Riverside to cover the shortfall.

Rancho Springs Medical Center currently charges law enforcement agencies a standard rate of \$330 per exam. The \$330 pays for only the nurse examination fee (nurse salary for four hours), supplies used during the exam, and medications. Additional equipment replacement costs and overhead costs such as standby pay, clerical support, training, etc. are not included in the rate (these costs are what make up their reported \$100,000 deficit).

The hospital director at Rancho Springs Medical Center reports that equipment replacement costs and overhead costs are approximately \$100,000. Contributions from the cities of Temecula, Murrieta, and Lake Elsinore, as well as the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians and the County of Riverside are used to pay for overhead costs. The County of Riverside contributed \$25,000 (Item #3.47 on 6-11-02) for start-up costs when the program was established but has not made additional contributions. Total contributions received by Rancho Springs have been as follows:

- \$118,401 in 2002
- \$40,910 in 2003
- \$15,700 as of November in 2004

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Background (continued)

The decrease in contributions and increase in overhead costs has resulted in the deficit that Rancho Springs Medical Center is currently experiencing. It is recommended that the County negotiate an agreement with Rancho Springs Medical Center that will adjust the per exam rate to a level that will allow Rancho Springs to recover their true costs for providing the service. The agreement can include applying the new rate retroactively to December 2003 for exams already performed.

The Executive Office, the Sheriff and District Attorney will return to the Board of Supervisors within 60 days with a proposed new agreement for Board approval.