

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



FROM: Riverside County Regional Medical Center (RCRMC)

SUBMITTAL DATE:
06/28/06

SUBJECT: Ratify the Agreements for Travel Nurse Registries

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Ratify and execute the new agreements effective July 1, 2006, with Travel Nurse Registries: Emerald Health, On Assignment Healthcare, American Traveler Staffing Professionals, HRN Services, Nurse Connection, Travel Nurse Solutions, Premier Healthcare Professionals, MedStaff Healthcare Solutions, SHC Services, Arcadia Health Services, and Progressive Travel;
2. Authorize the Purchasing Agent to move dollars between these contracts as needs dictate as long as the aggregate amount does not exceed \$6.5 million annually, and;
3. Authorize the Director of Purchasing to sign amendments and exercise renewal options for up to four (4) additional one-year increments for an amount not to exceed the contract maximum.

BACKGROUND: In March 2006, on behalf of RCRMC, the Purchasing Department issued a formal request for proposal, MCARC012, to secure temporary travel nursing services at the most economical rates. These "travel" nurse registries provide nurses from outside the local area and increase the total available supply of nurses to RCRMC.

DB:CM

Douglas D. Bagley

Douglas D. Bagley, Hospital Director

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 6,500,000.00	In Current Year Budget:	Yes
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	0	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	0	For Fiscal Year:	06/07

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

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

County Executive Office Signature

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

Prev. Agn. Ref.: _____ **District:** _____ **Agenda Number:** _____

ATTACHMENTS FILED WITH THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

3 . 20

Departmental Concurrence

Purchasing: *[Signature]* Assistant Director

RECEIVED BY CLERK OF BOARD
 COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
 JUN 29 11:03 AM '06

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BACKGROUND (Continued):

They are an alternative to "per diem" registry and have the advantage of providing a more stable workforce than "per diem" registry. However, these "travel" nurses still are only interim solutions to the growing patient load, as our goal remains that of acquiring County-employed nurses.

In 2003, Assembly Bill (394) was established to ensure a safe and effective staffing ratio of nurse to patient in conjunction with the patient's acuity level. The ratios were increased in January 2005, consequently increasing the shortage of nurses available to RCRMC, while patient volume has continued to rise.

RCRMC has experienced a 42% increase in patient census since the facility relocated to Moreno Valley in March, 1998.

Due to the national and regional shortage of qualified nursing staff in the areas of critical care, emergency rooms, operating rooms, and labor and delivery, the 21 current awarded nurse registry contractors providing supplemental staff on a per diem basis are not able to meet all the staffing needs.

RCRMC needs the ability to contract with "travel" nurse registries to provide longer-term nurses to work a full time schedule to meet the service coverage requirements and provide a more stable nurse staffing mix.

PRICE REASONABLENESS:

The request for proposal, MCARC012, was sent to potential travel registry contractors and advertised on the Riverside County Purchasing Web Site. Thirty four proposals were received and thoroughly reviewed. Twelve of the proposals received were identified as the most responsive/responsible meeting all the qualifications set in the RFP. These twelve registries were offered an opportunity to contract with the County for an average uniform rate and eleven agreed to the rates and terms offered.

The average proposed rates for the various nursing classifications were calculated based on the qualified contractor's proposals and compared to the Hospital Association of Southern California (HASC) Survey of Nursing Registry Issues and Practices. The HASC survey identified an average of nurse registry rates paid in 106 Southern California Hospitals in six counties. The uniform rates offered, for the Nursing classification is equal to the average rate of the comparable hospitals surveyed. To provide a comparative basis, RCRMC's total salary and employee benefits for fiscal year 2006-07 will be an estimated \$161 million.