



Agenda Date: 10/23/2007
Agenda Placement: 9A

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Alice Hughey for Randolph F. Snowden - Director
Health & Human Services
REPORT BY: Shelli Brobst, Contracts Analyst, 253-4720
SUBJECT: Information Regarding Additional Medi-Cal Documentation Requirements for U.S. Citizens and Nationals

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Health and Human Services to brief the Board on a significant change in Medi-Cal procedural requirements resulting from the Federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, concerning additional documentation requirements for Medi-Cal applicants and recipients who declare themselves to be U.S. citizens or U.S. nationals.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Teresa Zimny, Manager of HHSA's Public Assistance/Vocational Services Division, will provide the Board with information regarding provisions of the Federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 that impose additional documentation requirements on Medi-Cal applicants and recipients who declare themselves to be U.S. citizens or U.S. nationals.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) staff will provide a briefing for the Board regarding a significant change in Medi-Cal procedural requirements resulting from the Federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA). The DRA, originally a federal budget reduction measure, became a legislative vehicle for a number of issues, including documentation requirements. Following passage of the DRA, extensive discussion ensued concerning the documentation requirements. Federal regulations to implement the new documentation requirements were initially delayed and eventually promulgated in 2006. In California, counties were instructed not to begin implementation of the new standards until State implementation guidelines were developed.

The State implementation guidelines, issued to counties in June 2007, contained new requirements for Medi-Cal applicants and recipients who declare themselves to be U.S. citizens or nationals (individuals born in specified U.S. territorial possessions including American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands). To be eligible to receive full scope Medi-Cal (i.e., full Medi-Cal coverage with no deductible), these individuals must now provide additional documentation of their status. Staff are now requesting new applicants to provide documentation meeting the higher standards as part of the application process. The new documentation standards will be implemented for current beneficiaries in December 2007. Because these changes may result in questions from the public, HHS staff want to make the Board aware of the additional requirements and the potential impact they may have on HHS clients. The briefing will provide the Board with an overview of the changes, their likely impact, and information on how HHS staff are implementing the new provisions.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

A . Memorandum to the Board of Supervisors

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Lorenzo Zialcita