



Agenda Date: 7/11/2006
Agenda Placement: 6E

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Shelli Brobst for Randy Snowden - Director
Health & Human Services
REPORT BY: Theresa Richmond, Chief Operations Officer, 259-8176
SUBJECT: Ratification/Approval for Out of Country Travel

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Health and Human Services requests the ratification and authorization for the Auditor-Controller to reimburse a staff psychiatrist's travel expenses incurred in attending a psychiatric medical conference in Toronto, Canada from May 19 - May 25, 2006.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Agency staff psychiatrists are responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of clients who require medication and therapy as part of their mental health services. Staff psychiatrists must maintain California licensure as a condition of employment. This conference, sponsored by the American Psychiatric Association (APA), satisfies the continuing medical education requirements for licensure. Since the conference was part of the annual meeting of the APA, the APA will not offer this conference again this year.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	Yes
Where is it budgeted?	Mental Health
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary
Discretionary Justification:	Although the staff psychiatrist is mandated to obtain continuing education units in order to be licensed to practice medicine in the State of California, attendance at this particular conference to meet the continuing education requirement is discretionary. Costs for this conference, however, are comparable to similar continuing education training, when available, in the

United States, for the same number of continuing education credits. This training is funded by County General Fund dollars appropriated for this purpose in the Mental Health budget each fiscal year.

Is the general fund affected? Yes

Future fiscal impact: None

Consequences if not approved: If this travel claim is not approved, the Agency will be unable to reimburse the staff psychiatrist for the training.

Additional Information: None

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

The County's contract with the California Department of Mental Health requires that the County provide medically necessary services, including psychiatric medication support and therapy to Medi-Cal beneficiaries and indigent clients residing in Napa County. Agency staff psychiatrists providing these services must be licensed medical physicians. In order for physicians to maintain a current medical license, participation in continuing medical education (CME) is required. To assist staff in maintaining required licenses, the Agency reimburses physicians for continuing medical education for up to five days including fees, lodging, travel, and meals. Funds are appropriately budgeted for this purpose.

The American Psychiatric Association (APA) facilitates and sponsors the annual training meeting at a different location each year. The APA training conference for 2006 was held in Toronto, Canada. The conference focused on science and public policy as it relates to psychiatric medicine. Sessions attended by the staff psychiatrist included "Neurobiology of Schizophrenics," "Methamphetamine Addiction," and "Brain Development as Affected by Marijuana." The staff psychiatrist attended the training in Toronto because it offered a chance to receive the most current and relevant training materials and information in psychiatric medicine within a short focused period of time. Because this was a 5-day conference, the staff psychiatrist was also able to receive more CME units than a one-day conference would have provided. The Toronto conference met the requirements for licensure and its cost is comparable to other conferences the APA has held at other locations within the United States.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Lorenzo Zialcita