

**County of Santa Clara
Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System
Santa Clara Valley Medical Center
Valley Homeless Healthcare Program**



90253

DATE: March 20, 2018

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Paul E. Lorenz, Chief Executive Officer, SCVMC

SUBJECT: Monthly Report on Valley Homeless Healthcare Program

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Consider recommendations relating to the Valley Homeless Healthcare Program.
(Ambulatory and Community Health Services, Santa Clara Valley Medical Center)

Possible action:

- a. Approve operational report from Health Resources and Services Administration Project Director.
- b. Approve updated Sliding Fee Discount Program Policy for homeless patients.
- c. Approve quarterly budget update for grant period June 1, 2017 through May 31, 2018.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The recommended actions would not require any modification to the current Board-approved budget for Santa Clara Valley Medical Center. There are no costs or revenues associated with approval of the report.

CONTRACT HISTORY

In September 2003, the County of Santa Clara received a grant from the federal Health Services and Resources Administration (HRSA) to provide medical services to the County's homeless population. This provided the funding through which the Valley Homeless Healthcare Program began. The grant has been renewed allowing the program to continue.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

As part of grant funding requirements from the HRSA, the establishment of a Governing Board is required to provide oversight and direction for the Valley Homeless Healthcare Program (VHHP). It has been determined that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) is the

Governing Board of VHHP. Monthly updates on the Program will be presented to the Governing Board, including any actionable items for the Board's consideration in order to meet HRSA's governance requirements.

Sliding Fee Discount Program

Per HRSA program requirements, the Valley Homeless Healthcare Program must have a system in place to determine eligibility for patient discounts adjusted on the basis of the patient's ability to pay. In accordance with the bylaws, the Governing Board of the Homeless Program will review and update the Sliding Fee Discount Program (SFDP) on an annual basis. The policy was presented to the Governing Board in March 2017 and since then, there has not been a change to the policy. As such, the SFDP is presented to the Governing Board for an annual review and approval.

The SFDP policy applies to all homeless patients who receive services at SCVMC. The Sliding Fee Discount Schedule is also included with the policy and will be used to charge homeless patients based on their ability to pay and reduce barriers to care for all homeless patients with low income. Homeless individuals whose income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) would qualify for the sliding scale based on income and family size. An updated Sliding Fee Discount Schedule will take effect April 2018 and is attached for the Board's review and approval.

Quarterly Grant Budget Update

The Homeless grant was renewed for a three year term to continue the provision of services to the homeless population. The total grant amount for the first year of funding from June 1, 2016 through May 31, 2017 was \$2,693,694. The total grant amount for this second year of funding for the period June 1, 2017 through May 31, 2018 is \$2,397,694. The grant predominantly provides funding for administrative and medical staff. Each quarter, expenditures are reported to HRSA in order to draw down the funds.

For the first three quarters of the grant term from June 1, 2017 through May 31, 2018, the Program claimed \$1,865,406 or 77.8% of the grant funding with a remaining balance of \$532,288. The Program is on target to expend the remaining grant amount. A more detailed list of expenditures to date is attached to the legislative file for the Board's review and approval.

CHILD IMPACT

The work described in this report will have a positive impact on children and youth as the VHHP provides health and social services for homeless children and their families.

SENIOR IMPACT

The work described in this report will have a positive impact on seniors as the VHHP provides health and social services for older homeless adults.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The recommended action will have no/neutral sustainability implications.

BACKGROUND

Since 2004, VHHP has targeted homeless residents of Santa Clara County and has provided services designed to reduce and reverse health disparities. VHHP's service delivery model is designed to create a "safety net for the safety net" through an integrated model of care that incorporates primary care, mental health, substance abuse, oral health, and enabling services. VHHP's network of front-line mobile and fixed-site services, linked to the SCVHHS system of care, engages and serves homeless people who cannot or will not use primary health care services in conventional settings. Front-line services are co-located with homeless shelters and services to provide convenient access to walk-in health services. Care coordination connects homeless patients to comprehensive services, including care at SCVHHS Valley Health Centers and Valley Specialty Center. This model emphasizes accessibility, affordability and relationship-building to counter the practical, cultural/linguistic and attitudinal barriers that impede access to healthcare for homeless people through:

- Services that reach homeless people "where they are";
- Provision of all services without regard to ability to pay;
- Assignment of homeless patients to primary care providers to assure medical home access;
- Integration of primary care and mental health services;
- Active assistance to obtain and stay enrolled in health coverage and other benefits programs;
- Recognition and respect for each patient's strengths and autonomy; and
- Communication of compassion, dignity and hope in every patient encounter.

Within this framework, VHHP uses specific strategies to meet the unique needs of homeless sub-populations. VHHP has received Expanded Medical Capacity, New Access Point and Service Expansion awards to carry out specialized strategies to reach and deliver services that meet the health access and care needs of chronically homeless adults, homeless adults with acute medical problems discharged from hospitals, homeless injection drug users with and at high risk for the Hepatitis C Virus, homeless migrant/seasonal farm workers, and homeless transition age youth.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Failure to approve the recommendation action would hinder the Program's ability to meet the program requirements for HRSA.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Clerk of the Board will notify Selene Ho at selene.ho@hhs.sccgov.org.

ATTACHMENTS:

- HRSA Sliding Fee Discount Policy_final (PDF)
- Homeless Grant Budget_Jun2017-Feb2018_final (PDF)
- HRSA Sliding Scale_FPL Effective April 1 2018_final (PDF)