

First 5 Commission of San Diego
June 3, 2009
Oral Health Initiative Contract Amendment

The action before the Commission is to consider amendment of the contract for the Community Clinics Health Network for FY 2009-10 for an additional \$1,080,500 to expand oral health services for children and pregnant women.

Background

Last December 16, 2008 (Item 10) the Commission allocated over \$60 million from its reserve to strengthen safety net programs. As part of this action, \$7,085,000 was allocated for oral health programs serving young children and pregnant women. The funds for oral health were allocated but not encumbered.

The proposal is to amend the existing contract with the Community Clinics Health Network for a total of \$1,080,500 for FY2009-10 to provide oral health treatment services and care coordination services for children and pregnant women. These services will be provided by a network of subcontractors that compose the Oral Health Initiative (OHI). The expanded oral health services will include:

\$800,500 – Expanded Oral Health Treatment for Children and Pregnant Women

Currently, nearly 42% of pregnant women receiving dental screenings through OHI have obvious dental decay or an urgent need for treatment. Yet many pregnant women with significant oral health needs are not receiving treatment. The costs of treatment, inadequately covered by Medi-Cal and Denti-Cal, as well as misconceptions about the danger of dental care during pregnancy are factors in pregnant women not seeking treatment. This proposal is to expand OHI to provide treatment services for an estimated 350 to 400 pregnant women with severe oral health needs and additional treatment for an estimated 1500 to 1700 children. Data show this is a critical, yet unmet need identified each year in the Commission's evaluation.

\$280,000 - Oral Health Care Coordination for Children and Pregnant Women

Care coordination has proven to be the most effective tool in ensuring that children and families follow-up with treatment appointments and overcome existing barriers to obtain services. Additional care coordination and dental staff are needed to accommodate the increased numbers of pregnant women and children identified as needing treatment. The goals of expanding care coordination are to: connect families to services more quickly, reduce missed appointments, improve prevention practices and educate pregnant women on the importance and safety of seeking oral health treatment while pregnant. Expanded care coordination will ensure children and pregnant women receive needed treatment in the most efficient manner.

Staff Recommendation

1. Find that the proposed contract amendment is consistent with the Commission's Strategic Plan, furthers the support and improvement of early childhood development within the County and provides a public benefit.
2. Authorize the Executive Director or designee to amend the contract for the Community Clinics Health Network for FY 2009-10 for an additional \$1,080,500 to expand oral health services for children and pregnant women provided as part of the Oral Health Initiative.

Fiscal Impact:

Up to \$1,080,500 from the \$7,085,000 allocation approved by the Commission in December 2008.