

*Kathy Danahy*

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Community Services Agency

BOARD AGENDA # \*B-2

Urgent  Routine   
CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES  NO   
(Information Attached)

AGENDA DATE December 11, 2007

4/5 Vote Required YES  NO

SUBJECT:

Approval to Implement Mandated MediCal Eligibility Citizenship Verification Requirements as directed by the Federal Deficit Reduction Act, Addition of Positions and Related Budget Adjustments - Community Services Agency

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Amend the Salary and Position Allocation Resolution to add 15 new positions to the Community Services Agency (CSA) Program Services and Support Budget, in response to new MediCal program mandates and funding to meet citizenship verification requirements, effective December 23, 2007.
2. Direct the Auditor Controller to increase appropriations and estimated revenues in the amount of \$766,091 as detailed in the Budget Journal.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Community Services Agency MediCal Program Budget Augmentation is \$766,091. The impact to the Community Services Agency budget for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2007-2008 as a result of the augmentation will be an increase in both appropriations and estimated revenues of \$766,091 reflected in the attached budget journal entry. The \$482,220 represents the estimated cost of salaries and benefits for the 15 new positions for the last six months of the Fiscal Year 2007-2008.

(Fiscal Impact is continued on Page 2.)

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2007-951

On motion of Supervisor Monteith, Seconded by Supervisor DeMartini

and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: Grover, Monteith, DeMartini, and Chairman O'Brien

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: Mayfield

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1)  Approved as recommended

2)  Denied

3)  Approved as amended

4)  Other:

MOTION:

*Christine Ferraro*

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

**FISCAL IMPACT (Continued):**

The balance of \$283,871 represents the estimated operational support costs associated with these positions. MediCal funds 100% of the cost of eligibility determinations; there is no county cost associated with these activities. Approval of this augmentation will have no impact to the County General Fund.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Federal Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005 included new program mandates for the MediCal program designed to improve program integrity in benefits issuance. Specifically eligibility for MediCal was expanded to include new mandates for applicants to provide proof or evidence of citizenship/US national status with the additional responsibility required for eligibility staff to verify the documentation as a condition of approving MediCal benefits. Assembly Bill (AB) 1807 (Chapter 74, Statutes of 2006) implements a provision of the DRA that requires evidence of citizenship and identity as a condition of Medicaid eligibility for individuals who are applying for or currently receiving MediCal benefits and who declare they are citizens of the United States. The State of California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) received interim final federal regulations on July 6, 2006 for implementation effective July 1, 2006. However, DHCS did not issue the new requirements with instructions provided to County Social Service Departments until June 4, 2007 for implementation by midyear Fiscal Year 2007-2008. Stanislaus County implemented the new mandated procedures effective November 1, 2007.

Under the new provisions, applicants are required to show proof of identity and citizenship at the time of application and are not to be determined eligible until the documentation is provided. Current beneficiaries are required to provide documentation at the time of their next annual redetermination. Beneficiaries remain eligible for full-scope services as long as they are cooperative in obtaining the documentation. 85% of the MediCal population is affected by the citizenship requirements. This provision does not apply to, or otherwise affect, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries, Medicare beneficiaries, deemed eligible infants who are born in the US and who are citizens, minor consent applicants and beneficiaries, Title IV-E Foster Care and Title IV-E Adoption Assistance children, children receiving the IV-B services, and infants eligible under the Abandoned Baby program who are also born in the US and have no documentation.

The implications of this new mandated eligibility requirement are possible delays in granting of MediCal program eligibility which could negatively impact customers' access to health care as well as payments to providers of health care services. In order to ensure access and provider reimbursement for eligible services, it is critical that the citizenship verification process be timely and accurate.

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In recognition of the new workload requirements added to the eligibility process, additional funding was provided to augment the MediCal allocation to Stanislaus County by \$766,091 for Fiscal Year 2007-2008. Although the funding notification was received on September 24, 2007, the Community Services Agency (CSA) did not include the new funding in the First Quarter budget report pending the receipt of all StanWORKs allocation notices to ensure that staffing levels were fully supported throughout the agency. All funding letters have now been received and it is clear that the MediCal augmentation is available as an increase in total funding for CSA available to support new staff positions. DHCS has confirmed that this funding will be an ongoing augmentation provided in subsequent fiscal years, linked to the desired outcomes of staff time studying the citizenship effort and timely application processing and/or redetermination of program eligibility.

As a result, CSA is requesting the addition of 13 new Family Service Specialist staff and 2 Family Service Specialist Supervisors to meet the citizenship verification workload. The addition of 15 staff to the MediCal program will bring the total budgeted casework level to 158.5 for Fiscal Year 2007-2008. At the present time, Stanislaus County maintains one of the highest caseworker workload ratios at 433.59 MediCal "eligibles" or customers per worker. The average of the C-IV Consortium counties is estimated at 412.7 for this fiscal year. The California Department of Health Care Services has grouped Counties according to consortiums. A productivity standard, using weighted averages, is established for each "consortium" group. Counties are expected to use these standards as guidelines to determine the number of MediCal eligibility staff needed to process new applications, and perform the activities necessary in order to administer the program. The additional workload associated with citizenship and identity verification reduces the Family Services Specialists' ability of maintaining MediCal performance standards at previously estimated higher caseload level. With the addition of the new staff, this workload will be reduced to 394.41 eligibles per caseworker, which is necessary to maintain the speed and integrity of the eligibility process with the new mandated requirements. This request was discussed with and was supported by the Health Executive Committee of the Board of Supervisors on December 4, 2007.

The Agency is seeking authorization for the additional positions prior to Midyear in an effort to bring the staff on board to provide services for the maximum number of months available the balance of the fiscal year. It is important that the staff be present for the time study period that begins January 20, 2008 in order to be counted in the next Department of Health Care Services financial report due on March 1, 2008 which will be used to build the base MediCal eligibility administration allocation funds for Fiscal Year 2008-2009.

**POLICY ISSUE:**

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Approval of this request for additional staff positions supports the Board's priorities of a healthy community and efficient delivery of public services by providing fully funded staff to expedite MediCal citizenship requirement verification in the eligibility process with a goal to obtain MediCal benefits for all eligible customers thereby maximizing access to health care in our Community.

**STAFFING IMPACT:**

It is requested that the Board approve the following amendments to the Salary and Position Allocation Resolution for CSA, Program Services and Support, Fund 1631 effective December 23, 2007:

Add two (2) Family Services Supervisors  
Add thirteen (13) Family Services Specialist II

The additional positions are requested to support new MediCal eligibility processing requirements and will be funded through dedicated MediCal revenues.

**AUDITOR-CONTROLLER  
BUDGET JOURNAL**



Balance Type	Budget
Category	Budget - Upload
Source	
Currency	USD
Budget Name	LEGAL BUDGET
Batch Name	
Journal Name	
Journal description	CSA FY 2007/08 First Quarter StanWORKs Budget Adjustment
Period	Nov 2007
Organization	Stanislaus Budget Org Fund 1631 - Org 0045051
	BO#

Line	Coding Structure						Debit		Credit		Description
	Fund 4	Org 7	Account 5	G/L Proj 7	Loc 6	Misc 6	incr appropriations decr est revenue	decr appropriations incr est revenue			
1	1631	45051	21070	0	0	0.0			766,091.00	St Admin MediCal	
2	1631	45051	50000	0	0	0.0	332,415.00			Salaries & Wages	
3	1631	45051	52000	0	0	0.0	38,382.00			Retirement	
4	1631	45051	52010	0	0	0.0	26,292.00			FICA	
5	1631	45051	53000	0	0	0.0	85,131.00			Group Health Insurance	
6	1631	45051	62990	0	0	0.0	283,871.00			Equipment	
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Totals							766,091.00	766,091.00			

Explanation: CSA StanWORKs Bud FY 07/08 analysis requires adjustment to Salaries & Employee Benefits, Equipment, and MediCal revenue.

<b>Requesting Department</b>	<b>CEO</b>	<b>Auditors Office Only</b>	
<i>Chad Davis</i>	<i>Cynthia</i>	<i>Tom Fluer</i>	
Signature	Signature	Prepared By	Admin Approval (\$75K+)
12/3/07	12/5/07		12/4/07
Date	Date	Date	Date

Contact Person & Phone Number