



OFFICE OF
CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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CORRESPONDENCE 1

NANCY J. ROMERO
CLERK OF THE BOARD

KECIA HARPER-IHEM
ASSISTANT CLERK OF THE BOARD

page 1 of 4

April 7, 2008

County of Stanislaus
Thomas Mayfield, Chairperson of the Board
1010 10th Street, Suite 6700
Modesto, CA 95354

Subject: Medi-Cal Funding for Mental Health Services

Dear Chairperson:

On April 1, 2008, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors directed the Mental Health Director to notify the California State Director of Mental Health that if sufficient Medi-Cal funding is not provided by the State, the Director may terminate the County's participation in the State's Medi-Cal Mental Health Plan.

Attached are copies of the recent Board action and the Director's letter.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Debra Cournoyer, Principal Management Analyst, County Executive Office, at (951) 955-1110.

Sincerely,

Nancy Romero
Clerk of the Board

Enclosures:

Minute Order
Letter from Mental Health Director

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
2008 APR 11 P 2:57

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



FROM: Supervisor Jeff Stone, Third District

SUBMITTAL DATE:
April 1, 2008

SUBJECT: Medi-Cal Funding for Mental Health Services

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board direct the Riverside County Mental Health Director to notify the California State Director of Mental Health that Medi-Cal funding provided to Riverside County is not sufficient for the psychiatric care required for residents of Riverside County. If sufficient funding is not provided by the State, the Riverside County Mental Health Director may terminate the County's participation in the State's Medi-Cal Mental Health Plan.

BACKGROUND: The State is already implementing a reduction in Medi-Cal rates through administrative action and currently is proposing a 10% cut in Medi-Cal funding.

- 1) From 1995 to 1998 the State transferred the responsibility for the Mental Health Medi-Cal program to counties. Counties were given the option to take on this new responsibility.
- 2) Counties assumed that their Mental Health Medi-Cal Plans would receive additional funds yearly beyond the base allocation for increases in beneficiary caseloads and for increases in costs-of-doing-business.
- 3) Since Medi-Cal consolidation in 1995, administrative requirements from the State have grown dramatically.

(Continued on next page)



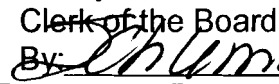
 Jeff Stone, Supervisor

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Stone, seconded by Supervisor Tavaglione and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended;

IT WAS FURTHER ORDERED that the Executive Office is directed to look at other existing programs and take the State to task on reimbursement of these programs; and,

IT WAS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of the Board send a copy of this Board Action to the other 57 counties in the State of California to show our leadership on this issue with the hope that they will support us.

Ayes:	Buster, Tavaglione, Stone, Wilson and Ashley	
Nays:	None	Nancy Romero
Absent:	None	Clerk of the Board
Date:	April 1, 2008	By 
xc:	Supv. Stone, E.O., 57 Counties-Calif., COB	Deputy

3.48

- 4) Most importantly, counties have not received COLA's for the Medi-Cal program since 2000. In the FY 03-04 state budget, the Medi-Cal allocation was actually reduced by 5%.
- 5) In FY 02-03, a 10% county share-of-cost was imposed by the State Department of Mental Health for all Children's Medi-Cal Services.
- 6) Since 2000, the Riverside County population has grown from 1.5 million to 2 million. Medi-Cal beneficiaries grew from 275,000 to 419,000.
- 7) In the past eight years the county general fund budget dedicated to the mental health program has grown from \$1.8 million to \$16.5 million, partially offsetting the State's inadequate funding dedicated to the mental health programs.
- 8) In addition to the County's general fund, Realignment is also used to pay for Medi-Cal costs that are increasing yearly at 3 to 5 % (based on the Medical Consumer Price Index).
- 9) Participation in the Medi-Cal program is at the discretion of individual counties and remains a voluntary contract for counties.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

JERRY A. WENGERD, DIRECTOR



DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Reply to: Department of Mental Health
P. O. Box 7549
Riverside, CA 92513-7549
(951) 358-4501

April 7, 2008

Stephen W. Mayberg, PhD, Director
California State Department of Mental Health
1600 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Dr. Mayberg:

Participation in the State's Medi-Cal Mental Health Plan has increasingly become a burden almost unbearable for Riverside County. We are left with insufficient funds locally to match Federal Medicaid funds while the State has insufficiently funded the program. Further, the Administration is now moving forward with a 10% cut in Medi-Cal.

Since 1990, the Medi-Cal allocation to Riverside County has grown 7.19% to compensate for the increase in Medi-Cal beneficiaries. Riverside's beneficiary population has grown 52.19% in the same period. In addition, there has been no cost-of-living increase.

Clearly, there is a lack of financial resource provided to us to administer the program that was executed in the mid 1990's. This should not be singularly a county burden. I hope that you can meet with me to hear our concerns related to the mental health care of our residents.

Sincerely,


Jerry Wengerd, Director of Mental Health
Riverside County