October 6, 2015

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public
Health public hearing to consider a Resolution revising the Dental Clinic Fee
Schedule effective October 12, 2015.

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATION:
1. Authorize President to adopt a Resolution revising the Fee Schedule for the
   Dental Clinic effective October 12, 2015.

SUMMARY: Approximately 67% of the visits to the adult portion of the County
Dental Clinic (i.e. Suite C) are from self-pay clients without commercial or publicly
funded insurance. The current fee structure, in effect since October 1, 2011, no
longer covers the Dental Clinic’s costs even for those with an ability to pay; does not
include fees for nine recently added procedures, which prevents the Dental Clinic
from providing those services to self-pay clients and charging for the procedures;
and includes a sliding fee scale based upon 2011 federal poverty guidelines.

The proposed fee structure is based upon a detailed evaluation of the cost of
services and still provides for a sliding fee scale based upon the client’s income and
family size. The proposed fee schedule reflects adjustments in fees for procedures
to account for changes in dental clinic costs from previous years. While the majority
of fees are increasing, three procedure fees remain unchanged, nine procedure fees
are being reduced, and there are nine new procedure fees. Note that federal law
prohibits clinics from charging any client less than the amount paid by Medi-Cal
(Denti-Cal for dental services) for that service.

The proposed fee schedule and sliding fee scale will not apply to services the
Department provides to children as a subcontractor of Marin Community Clinics
(MCC) as those children are considered MCC patients and the services are billed for
by MCC. It also will not apply to children covered by Medi-Cal or another form of
insurance. Adults with commercial or publicly funded insurance will continue to have
the applicable insurance billed for covered services; for services not otherwise
covered, the proposed fee schedule and sliding fee scale will be applied.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS: While the proposed fee schedule more closely aligns
fees with the clinic’s actual costs, the actual financial liability for most patients will be
based on a sliding fee scale. The Department will continue to work with community
agencies to ensure that individuals who cannot pay even the lowest amount on the
fee schedule, such as persons who are homeless, will be served through agreements with our community partners.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** This proposed action will result in increased revenue in the Dental Clinic Funds Center 1000104000 as the proposed fee schedule will allow the Dental Clinic to recover a higher portion of the cost of providing services. While increased revenue is anticipated, the use of a sliding-fee scale makes it difficult to estimate the amount. The Department will work with the CAO to adjust the FY 2015-16 budget as part of the monthly budget adjustment process when a more accurate estimate can be made based on several months of implementation.

**REVIEWED BY:**

- [x] County Administrator  □  N/A
- [x] Department of Finance  □  N/A
- [ ] County Counsel  [x]  N/A
- [ ] Human Resources  [x]  N/A

Respectfully submitted,

Grant Nash Colfax, MD
Director

SAP Document: No SAP Document required