

March 13, 2007

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

SUBJECT: Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health requests setting of hearing to consider amendment of Resolution 2005-102 revising the Rate Schedule for the Medical Marijuana Identification Card Program.

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATION: Set hearing for March 27, 2007 at 10:30 a.m. to consider proposed amendment to Resolution 2005-102 revising the rate/charge schedule for the Division of Public Health Medical Marijuana Identification Card Program.

SUMMARY: The California Medical Marijuana ID Program provides a Statewide identification system for individuals whose physician has recommended the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes. Under the program, established in 2004, the State establishes guidelines and administers a database and counties issue the cards and administer the program at the local level. State legislation requires that the program implement a fee structure to cover the costs of the program and provides for a fifty percent reduction in the fees for Medi-Cal beneficiaries. The current State fee for the issuance of the cards is \$6.50 for Medi-Cal beneficiaries and \$13.00 for others; Marin's corresponding rate structure for the program is an additional \$23.50 per card for Medi-Cal beneficiaries and \$47.00 per card for others.

Effective April 1, 2007, the California Department of Health Services' required portion of the Medical Marijuana ID Card (MMIC) fee will be increased to \$33.00 for Medi-Cal beneficiaries and \$66.00 for others. This substantial increase in the State fees is due to the State's recalculation of its administrative costs, as well as the fact that only 24 counties issue Medical Marijuana ID cards, so the Statewide costs are spread over fewer counties.

In order to maintain Marin County's program on a cost-covered basis, the Department of Health and Human Services proposes increases in its rate structure to a total of \$56.50 for Medi-Cal beneficiaries and \$113.00 for all others.

Recognizing that these new fees may limit the efficacy of the Marijuana Medical ID card program, HHS consulted with County Counsel and with others in Bay Area counties – including San Francisco – to see if the program can be administered locally, in a manner that is acceptable to local law enforcement and that meets with all legal requirements. At this point, we found no legal basis to reinstate our local MMIC program and recommend that your Board adopt the new fee structure. Attached is additional information regarding the MMIC program.

FISCAL/STAFFING IMPACT: See attached proposed fee schedule. There is no increase in net county cost associated with this request. The additional revenue received will be fully reimbursed to the State.

REVIEWED BY:	Auditor Controller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Human Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	County Counsel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Meredith, Ph.D.
Director

MERIT FM Document: No MERIT Document Required