County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY
ADMINISTRATION

October 28, 2009

AGENDA: November 3,2009

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Subject: Report on Children's Health Insurance

Dear Members of the Board:

On September 29, 2009, your Board directed the Health Services Agency (HSA) to provide a follow-up report on new grants, Swine Flu Vaccination plans, and Children's Health Insurance on or before November 3, 2009. HSA provided a comprehensive H IN1 report to your Board on October 27, 2009, summarizing the new grant funding available to support the Swine Flu efforts in our community, as well as our plans for vaccination clinics.

Following submission of our September 29th report to your Board, AB 1422 was signed into law by the Governor, effectively restoring funding to the Healthy Families program and enabling elimination of the enrollment freeze that had been in effect since July 17, 2009. Healthy Families has re-opened to applicants, and disenrollment has been averted.

AB 1422 provides $194 million in shared solutions to keep California children enrolled in Healthy Families, including:

- $80 million in grant funding from the State First 5 Commission;
- $100 million from continuing an existing fee on Medi-Cal managed care plans;
- $14 million from modest increases in premiums and co-pays in the Healthy Families program.

Before the enrollment freeze in July, there were about 6500 Santa Cruz County children enrolled in the Healthy Families program. According to the latest data available (September 2009), Healthy Families enrollment was reduced to 6,186 members in Santa Cruz. As the wait list is now open, we expect enrollment to reach prior levels in the next month.

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The Health Improvement Partnership is sponsoring a community fundraising dinner on November 12, 2009, from which all proceeds will go to the Healthy Kids program. A full report will be provided to your Board on the state of Children's Health insurance in April 2010 to prepare for the State budget.

It is, therefore, RECOMMENDED that your Board accept this report on Children's Health insurance and direct the Health Services Agency to provide a more comprehensive report by the end of April 2010.

Sincerely,

Rama K. Khalsa, Ph.D.
Health Services Agency Director

RECOMMENDED:

SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
County Administrative Officer

cc: County Administrative Office
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller
HSA Administration
Health Improvement Partnership
First 5 of Santa Cruz

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