

# Board Inquiry Form

Board Member	
Carbajal	
Wolf	x
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Adam	
Lavagnino	

Inquiry Number: 40

Department: Public Health  
 Date: June 12, 2013  
 Page(s) of Budget Book:

**Request/Question:** Why is Public Health proposing to make Service Level Reductions to positions in the County Health Care Centers? Won't these positions be needed to meet the increased demand when the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is implemented?

Response Prepared by: Michele Mickiewicz, Liz Snyder

**Response:**

The Service Level Reductions listed for Public Health on page 7 of 12 include reducing a number of staff positions in the Health Care Centers; however, reducing these positions will not affect the department's ability to meet increased demand due to the ACA for the following reasons:

- The 3.0 FTE Medical Social Service worker positions listed on line 2 assist Medically Indigent Adult (MIA) patients in applying for Medi-Cal and Social Security Disability benefits. This activity will be largely eliminated with the implementation of the ACA. This is because most of the MIA patients will be eligible for the Medi-Cal expansion under ACA and will be enrolled via the application assisters through the Department of Social Services. The residual work in this area will be reassigned to the existing patient representatives. Two of these positions are vacant and 1.0 FTE will be reassigned to work in a grant-funded Enrollment and Outreach program.
- The reduction of 1.3 FTE health care provider positions listed on lines 3 and 4 is being recommended to better match staffing with demand. There has been a decrease in patient visits over the last three fiscal years and even with anticipated increased demand from the Medi-Cal expansion, these positions are not needed to meet the patient needs at the Health Care Centers. The .3 provider position is vacant and the 1.0 FTE position would result in a layoff.
- The 5.0 AOP I/II positions are being reduced in the Medical Records area due to the implementation of the PHD's Electronic Health Record. The work done by these positions no longer exists due to the shift from a paper patient chart to the electronic patient charts. PHD has reassigned 2 FTE's to open AOP positions elsewhere in the department and will reassign the other 3 FTE's if vacancies occur. It is possible that 3 FTE's would be laid off. It is also possible that countywide AOP positions will become available.
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- The 7.0 staff positions in the Santa Maria Women's Health Center are slated for reduction due to the consolidation of the Women's Health Center services into the Santa Maria Health Care Center in the Betteravia Government Complex. These positions can be reduced without impacting service levels and there will be little to no patient growth in the Women's Center practice due to the implementation of Health Care Reform. Two of these positions are vacant and the other 5 have been reassigned elsewhere in the department so there will be no layoffs as a result of this change.

The PHD continuously monitors access and utilization measures relative to our staffing within our clinic sites. If implementation of the ACA results in increased demands for services beyond existing capacity, PHD, in coordination with CenCal and our community clinic partners, would work together to ensure sufficient capacity within our overall system.