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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: December 13, 2016

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Jill Blake**

SUBJECT: Resolution accepting funds in the amount of \$63,750 for three eligible professionals (\$21,250/each) for the first incentive payments for F/Y 2016/17 under the Medicaid EHR (Electronic Health Records) Incentive Program, and up to a maximum of \$212,500 over the life of the program through 2021.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: Nevada County Public Health has received three EHR (Electronic Health Records) stimulus payments under the Medicaid Incentive Program. These payments are available to eligible medical providers based on specific qualifications and benchmark achievements. To date the department has received Medicaid Incentive payments in the amount of \$63,750 (\$21,250/each) for Fiscal Year 2016/17. No budget amendment is necessary to receive the funds.

BACKGROUND: The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act economic stimulus package passed for the year 2009 included an EMR (Electronic Medical Record), sometimes referred to as an EHR (Electronic Health Record), Stimulus Incentive Bill that is designed to foster the implementation by health care providers of "Meaningful Use" EMR. Meaningful Use is described as the use of EMR technology to achieve benchmarks that can positively impact and lead to improved patient care (see Exhibit A). The EMR stimulus has been adopted to encourage clinic and office based physicians to accelerate the transition towards an Electronic Medical Records System to help the US healthcare system more quickly meet its goals. EMR stimulus payments are made available under either the Medicare Incentives for EMR or the Medicaid Incentive Program.

Medicaid incentives are administered by the respective states, and eligible professionals are physicians, dentists, certified nurse-midwives, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants. Eligible professionals may not receive incentive payments from both Medicare and Medicaid programs in the same year.

The Medicaid EMR Incentive Program provides incentive payments to eligible professionals, eligible hospitals, and critical access hospitals as they adopt, implement, upgrade, or demonstrate meaningful use of certified EHR technology in their first year of participation and continue to demonstrate meaningful use for up to five remaining participation years. Eligible professionals can receive up to \$63,750 over six years as they successfully participate in the program. The year 2016 is the last year that Medicaid eligible professionals can begin participation in the program.

Public Health has utilized an electronic health record system, eClinical Works, since 2010. Public Health began working on the EMR incentive requirements by enrolling three Nurse Practitioners in the Medicaid Incentive Payment Program in August 2016. The initial incentive payments for those enrollments were received in October and November 2016. The department is evaluating data from its electronic health record and may enroll another eligible provider and if so, the associated initial incentive payment of \$21,250 is expected to be received within the next 3 months. The subsequent annual incentive payments of \$8,500 per eligible professional are available over a period of five years after each initial enrollment as benchmarks are successfully achieved.

Future payments will be received annually based on successful demonstration of specific objectives through 2021 when the program ends. The total amount that the department could potentially receive through the Medicaid Incentive Program, if the department is 100% successful with all the stages for all eligible professionals enrolled in the program, is \$212,500.

Item Initiated and Approved by: Jill Blake, Director of Public Health