

ALAMEDA COUNTY  
**HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

AGENCY

REBECCA GEBHART, Interim Director



AGENDA \_\_\_\_\_ September 27, 2016

**ADMINISTRATION & INDIGENT HEALTH**

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September 6, 2016

Honorable Board of Supervisors  
Alameda County Administration Building  
1221 Oak St. Suite 536  
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Board Members:

**SUBJECT: APPROVE EXTENSION OF AGREEMENT WITH U.S. DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO LOAN COUNTY STAFF**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- A. Approve extension of an Intergovernmental Personnel Agreement (IPA) with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to loan one Health Care Services Agency Behavioral Health Care Services employee to provide expertise on public health systems integration and data interoperability for a period of one year from 9/29/16-9/30/17; and
- B. Delegate authority to the Director or his designee to sign and execute the IPA on your behalf.

**SUMMARY:**

A key Alameda County Health Care Services Agency (HCSA) manager has been in place at the Federal agency responsible for health care policy and technology to enable HCSA to gain expertise and optimize its implementation of Federal and State health and welfare initiatives. Sandra Stier, a tenured County employee from HCSA-Behavioral Health Care Services (BHCS) is currently on loan to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide onsite expertise in health care systems integration initiatives. For the duration of the assignment, HHS reimburses the County for all salary and benefits expenses, in accordance with the Federal Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) mobility program regulations that govern temporary assignments.

**DISCUSSION:**

The IPA is intended to facilitate cooperation between the Federal Government and the non-Federal entity through the temporary assignment of skilled personnel. These assignments allow employees of State and local governments to serve with Federal organizations for a limited period of no more than four consecutive years on initiatives or policy areas of mutual concern and benefit to the Federal agency and to the non-Federal organization, without loss of employee rights and benefits. The legal authority for assignments under the IPA is 5 USC Sections 3371

through 3375. The regulations can be found in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 5, Chapter 334.

Sandra Stier has an extensive background in health care systems development and health care integration in local government. Her assignment to HHS is intended to utilize her experience in health and human services information systems and data interoperability, including coordination of the integration of systems between levels of government. Ms. Stier serves as an expert advisor and assists HHS in its role of providing comprehensive health and human services systems and policy leadership. This includes involvement in integrated systems planning, design, and implementation actions for both internal and external agency collaborations.

Ms. Stier's initial assignment started on October 5, 2014. HHS has requested that Ms. Stier continue to provide expertise and leadership on data interoperability projects between Federal, state, and local government. The knowledge she is gaining in working with the various systems of care during these loan assignments is invaluable in the BHCS Whole Person Care grant information technology requirements.

According to the Alameda County Administrative Code 3.12.060, "a leave of absence without pay may be granted by the department head to any employee who is lent to another governmental jurisdiction, to an agency engaged in a survey of government practices, or to an educational institution, but no one such leave of absence shall exceed a period of one year."

**FINANCING:**

HHS will continue to provide full reimbursement of all salary and benefits through the duration of the assignment. There is no increase in Net County Cost.

Very truly yours,



Rebecca Gebhart, Interim Director  
Alameda County Health Care Services Agency

RG/SS/dc