

# ATTACHMENT

For Item

#22

TUESDAY  
April 9, 2024

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION RECEIVED BY THE  
CLERK OF THE BOARD

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April 6, 2024

Chair Nora Vargas & Board of Supervisors  
San Diego County Board of Supervisors  
1600 Pacific Highway, Rm 335  
San Diego, CA, 92101

**SUBJECT: Item 22: Rural Health Post-Hospital Discharge Pilot Program Report —  
*Sharp HealthCare Support***

Dear Chair Vargas & Supervisors,

Sharp HealthCare (“Sharp”) is proud to support the Rural Health Post-Hospital Discharge Pilot program, which has resulted in improved patient outcomes and recovery after a hospital stay. Sharp urges the Board of Supervisors to continue providing these important support services for patients by reauthorizing the Rural Health Post-Hospital Discharge program.

Over the last year, Sharp Grossmont Hospital (SGH) has proudly served as the hospital partner for this pilot program, identifying eligible patients and referring them to the program for further services and support. Patient participants then receive home visits from the program’s two-person outreach team of a County Public Health Nurse and County Paramedic who support patient recovery. The outreach team works with patients to reinforce post-discharge care directions, assess patients’ clinical and social needs, provide case management, refer patients to County programs and address issues around the patient’s home, including social determinants of health. In addition, SGH supplies disease-specific patient care kits that are delivered by the public health nurse during the initial home visit. These kits support, educate and empower the patient in their post-discharge healing journey.

The County report features the quantitative data and program effectiveness based on fewer readmissions data - among patients participating in Rural Health Post-Hospital Discharge Pilot, only 4.0% were readmitted to the hospital within 30 days of discharge, while 13.9% of patients who declined participation in the program had to be readmitted to the hospital.

But the program’s success is just as clear when looking at the quantitative outcomes. The outreach team reported marked improvement in patient outlook, positivity and personal empowerment and ownership in their health over the course of the visits.

**SHARP ORGANIZATIONS**

Sharp HealthCare ■ Sharp Memorial Hospital ■ Sharp Grossmont Hospital ■ Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center ■ Sharp Coronado Hospital ■  
James S. Brown Hospital for Behavioral Health ■ Sharp Mary Birch Hospital for Women and Newborns ■ Sharp McDonald Center ■  
Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Centers ■ Sharp Health Plan ■ Sharp HealthCare Foundation ■ Grossmont Hospital Foundation

Patients want to be seen and heard, and the Rural Health Post-Hospital Discharge program is a resource that meets this innate need for rural patients who often feel isolated. The program aligns with San Diego County's health equity goals by addressing barriers to care for patients living in remote areas of the County.

Sharp applauds Supervisor Anderson and the entire San Diego County Board of Supervisors for their support of this program as a pilot in the 2023-24 County budget. Sharp respectfully urges the Board to reauthorize the Rural Health Post-Hospital Discharge program for the upcoming budget year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Howard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Howard".

Christopher D. Howard  
President and CEO  
Sharp HealthCare

CC: Sarah Aghassi, Interim Chief Administrative Officer  
Dr. Eric McDonald, Interim Agency Director, HHSA  
Dr. Wilma Wooten, Public Health Officer, HHSA  
Holly Porter, Deputy CAO of PSG  
Jeff Collins, Director, San Diego County Fire