

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 1**

**SUBJECT: SHERIFF - REQUEST TO ENTER INTO THE MEDI-CAL COUNTY INMATE PROGRAM AGREEMENT WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) provided guidance and procedures regarding county participation in the voluntary Medi-Cal County Inmate Program (MCIP). This program implements a provision of federal law that allows for the claiming of Medicaid funds for inpatient services provided to incarcerated persons when those services are provided at a medical facility located off the grounds of the correctional facility, for a stay of 24 hours or more, and the incarcerated person is found to be Medicaid eligible. This program offers the opportunity for providers to bill Medi-Cal directly for eligible persons and costs, which could reduce county expenditures for inpatient care for incarcerated persons. As off-site medical needs and incarcerated individuals' serious or complex medical conditions continue to rise, ongoing participation in MCIP is essential because it provides significant cost savings and helps the San Diego Sheriff's Office (Sheriff's Office) mitigate increasing medical expenditures for patients requiring inpatient medical services in the community.

Approval of today's recommended actions will authorize the participation of the Sheriff's Office and Probation in the MCIP for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029. This is also a request to authorize the County of San Diego's participation in the MCIP in subsequent years if there are no material changes to the agreement terms.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**SHERIFF**

1. Approve and authorize the Sheriff or designee to accept and execute upon receipt Medi-Cal County Inmate Program Agreements with the California Department of Health Care Services for the term of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029.
2. Authorize the Sheriff or designee to execute all required documents, including any extension, amendments, and/or revisions thereto that do not materially impact or alter the program or funding level.
3. Authorize the Sheriff or designee to accept and execute Medi-Cal County Inmate Program Agreements with the California Department of Health Care Services in subsequent years or for retroactive periods, including all required agreement documents, including amendments and/or revisions thereof that do not materially impact or alter the terms of the Medi-Cal Inmate Program agreement.

**EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Providing comprehensive on-site and off-site medical and mental health care to incarcerated individuals is a matter of equity because it upholds the fundamental human right to health. Incarcerated persons lose the ability to seek their own care. The incarcerated populations have increasingly come into

custody with chronic conditions, trauma, infectious diseases, and substance use disorders. Comprehensive care ensures this deep-rooted health disparities are actively addressed rather than exacerbated, and today's Board action will allow for the County to share the costs of the expenses incurred providing the necessary off-site medical care.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

When severe medical or psychiatric needs exceed the capacity of on-site services at the detention facilities, off-site access to specialized hospital networks and emergency services is essential. This request supports the County's sustainability goal of providing just and equitable access by improving service delivery to those in its custodial care. It also supports the sustainability goal of fiscal stability by ensuring costs incurred by sending incarcerated persons to necessary off-site services are reduced for the County.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2026-27 CAO Operational Plan for the Sheriff's Office. If approved, this request will result in anticipated reduced costs in Fiscal Year 2026-27 and in subsequent fiscal years. Under the MCIP, the County will pay only the non-federal share of eligible claims from providers to the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), as well as a proportionate share of DHCS administrative costs for the program. These costs will be funded through General Purpose Revenue currently budgeted in the Sheriff's Office. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

#### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

#### **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Lawson-Remer, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Aguirre, Anders, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

State of California)  
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed  
by Andrew Potter

