

**Monterey County Board of Supervisors
Referral Submittal Form**

Referral No. 2022.03
Assignment Date: 2/01/22
(Completed by CAO's Office)

SUBMITTAL - Completed by referring Board office and returned to CAO no later than noon on Thursday prior to Board meeting:

Date: 1/27/2022	Submitted By: JOHN PHILLIPS & LUIS ALEJO	District #: 2 & 1
Referral Title: Purchase of the Watsonville Community Hospital		
Referral Purpose: To support efforts to keep the Watsonville Community Hospital open and operating through the expedited purchase of the hospital by the Pajaro Valley Healthcare District Project.		
<p>Brief Referral Description: The Watsonville Community Hospital (WCH) is a primary provider of quality healthcare for residents of North Monterey County and South Santa Cruz County (City of Watsonville). It serves a truly diverse community that includes many disadvantaged working families. WCH is owned by Halsen Healthcare who filed for bankruptcy in December 2021. WCH has 106 beds, employs more than 620 employees and 200 physicians. Halsen Healthcare has set a deadline for bids on the purchase of WCH on February 14, 2022 and a sale hearing on February 23.</p> <p>There is pending legislation, Senate Bill 418 by Senator John Laird, that is moving quickly through the California legislature and is expected to reach Governor Gavin Newsom's desk for signature in mid-February 2022. SB 418 would create a hospital district to administer and operate the Watsonville Community Hospital under a purchase by the Pajaro Valley Healthcare District Project, as a non-profit organization. There are currently more than 70 healthcare districts throughout the state.</p> <p>Beyond creating the hospital district through legislation, the other challenge will be raising the funding for the purchase. The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors approved allocating \$5 million towards the purchase, contingent on a successful bid for the purchase. The City of Watsonville is also considering providing financial support towards the purchase.</p> <p>This referral requests that the County of Monterey provide additional financial assistance for the purchase of the hospital as time is of the essence on raising the requisite funding for a successful bid. Since this partnership will act as a healthcare benefit for the County of Monterey, the source of the funds may include appropriate Monterey County healthcare funding sources. It is recommended to consult with the Natividad Hospital Board of Trustees and leadership, County Administration and County Health Department to provide their expertise and recommendations on technical, managerial and financial assistance to support the Watsonville Hospital to remain open. This is an urgent matter and time is of the essence.</p>		
Classification - Implication		Mode of Response
<input type="checkbox"/> Ministerial / Minor <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Social Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Budget Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Watsonville Hospital/Access to Healthcare</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Memo <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Presentation	Requested Response Timeline
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 weeks <input type="checkbox"/> 1 month <input type="checkbox"/> 6 weeks <input type="checkbox"/> Status reports until completed <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Specific Date: _____	

ASSIGNMENT – Provided by CAO at Board Meeting. Copied to Board Offices and Department Head(s) Completed by CAO's Office:

Department(s): Health Department and Natividad Medical Center	Referral Lead: Elsa Jimenez/Dr. Chad Harris	Board Date: 2/01/22
--	--	----------------------------

REASSIGNMENT – Provided by CAO. Copied to Board Offices and Department Head(s). Completed by CAO's Office:

Department(s):	Referral Lead:	Date:
----------------	----------------	-------

--	--	--

ANALYSIS - Completed by Department and copied to Board Offices and CAO:

Department analysis of resources required/impact on existing department priorities to complete referral:

Analysis Completed By: _____	Department's Recommended Response Timeline
Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> By requested date <input type="checkbox"/> 2 weeks <input type="checkbox"/> 1 month <input type="checkbox"/> 6 weeks <input type="checkbox"/> 6 months <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year <input type="checkbox"/> Other/Specific Date: _____

REFERRAL RESPONSE/COMPLETION - Provided by Department to Board Offices and CAO:

Referral Response Date:	Board Item No.:	Referrals List Deletion:
-------------------------	-----------------	--------------------------

Note: Please cc Karina Bokanovich, Rocio Quezada and Maegan Ruiz-Ignacio on all CAO correspondence relating to referrals.