



County of Monterey Board of Supervisors

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Board Order

A motion was made by Supervisor Luis A. Alejo, seconded by Supervisor Chris Lopez to:

Receive a preliminary response to Board Referral Number 2025.16 (Alejo) regarding the creation of a new Esperanza Care program.

a. Receive a preliminary analysis report in response to Board Referral No. 2025.16;

b. Provide direction on a preferred referral processing option:

i. Proceed with completion of referral as outlined in preliminary report which includes:

1. Re-establishing EsperanzaCare as a Pilot: Approving a 12-month pilot program anticipated to go live on July 1st, 2026. Target Population and Scope: The initial pilot will serve 500 lives at 100% of the federal poverty level. It will cover primary care, pharmacy, specialty clinic services, lab, and radiology. Funding and Analysis: Directing the County Administrative Officer (CAO), Health Department, and Natividad Medical Center staff to collaborate on analyzing exact costs, identifying funding, and monitoring the ongoing impacts of state and federal policy changes. The cost is estimated to be between \$500,000 and \$1 million, funded by a combination of Natividad, the health department, and the County.

2. Formation of an Ad Hoc Committee

This committee will feature at least two representatives from the Board of Supervisors who will work alongside Natividad Hospital, the health department, and community groups (such as COPA and BHC) to facilitate ongoing collaboration and ensure community voices help shape the program's development.

3. Intentions for Future Expansion

While the pilot is strictly starting at 500 members due to local resource limitations and fiscal uncertainty surrounding H.R. 1.

4. Scheduled Advocacy and Lobbying Efforts

To combat the projected 27% reduction in Medi-Cal enrollment and offset local indigent care costs, the Board highlighted upcoming legislative advocacy plans:

Attending a National Association of Counties legislative conference (Feb 21–24) to discuss the impacts of H.R. 1.

Participating in a joint Sacramento lobby day on March 4th alongside the Public Hospitals Association, League of Cities, and CSAC to advocate for state funding before the governor's revised budget is released in May.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 27th day of January 2026, by roll call vote:

AYES: Supervisors Alejo, Church, Lopez, Root Askew and Daniels

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

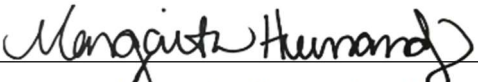
I, Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book 82 for the meeting January 27, 2026.

Dated: June 5, 2026

File ID: PAR 26-001

Agenda Item No.: 21

Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Monterey, State of California


Margarita Hernandez, Deputy