



# County of Monterey

Board of Supervisors  
Chambers  
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

## Board Report

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**File #:** A 22-499, **Version:** 1

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Authorize the Chief Executive Officer for Natividad Medical Center (NMC) or his designee to execute amendment No. 3 to the agreement with Huffmaster Crisis Response, Inc. for nurse and allied professional staffing services in the event of an emergent staffing crisis at NMC, to add \$5,000,000 for a revised total agreement amount not to exceed \$5,901,988, until the conclusion of the staffing need.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

#### **It is recommended the Board of Supervisors:**

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer for Natividad Medical Center (NMC) or his designee to execute amendment No. 3 to the agreement with Huffmaster Crisis Response, Inc. for nurse and allied professional staffing services in the event of an emergent staffing crisis at NMC, to add \$5,000,000 for a revised total agreement amount not to exceed \$5,901,988, until the conclusion of the staffing need.

### **SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:**

Huffmaster is a nationally-recognized healthcare staffing agency, providing emergency staffing and strike staffing solutions to healthcare clients, including hospitals. By providing clinical personnel during an emergent situation, hospitals can continue their vital operations during these situations.

Throughout the pandemic Natividad has experienced extreme census increases, resignations, increased unit sick-outs, difficulty with recruiting experienced specialty staff and a minimum of a two-week compliance requirement for traditional travel staff. All of this threatens Natividad's ability to meet its licensure requirements and nursing and allied professional to patient staff ratios in hospital units. When all regularly assigned staff participate in unit call-in's and fail to report to work, Natividad, committed to patient safety, is put into a position to cancel procedures and plan to divert emergency cases to other hospitals. Amending the existing agreement with Huffmaster to include emergent short-term staffing crisis situations will ensure that by the following day, Natividad is able to provide appropriate staffing levels of nurses and allied professionals to meet the healthcare needs of its patients.

Natividad had to amend the agreement twice to increase funds and is now amending again to increase for more funds as needed.

### **OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:**

The Office of the County Counsel approved the amendment No. 3 as to form. The Auditor-Controller approved the amendment No. 3 as to payment provisions. The amendment No. 3 has also been reviewed and approved by NMC's Finance Committee and by its Board of Trustees on September 9, 2022.

### **FINANCING:**

The cost for this amendment no. 3 is \$5,000,000. The source of funds will be from NMC's enterprise fund.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:**

The services rendered in this agreement contribute to assisting NMC in the care and treatment of patients.

- Economic Development
- Administration
- Health and Human Services
- Infrastructure
- Public Safety

Prepared by: Janine Bouyea, Human Resources Administrator, 783-2701

Approved by: Charles R. Harris, Chief Executive Officer, 783-2551

Attachments:

- Amendment No. 3 to HuffMaster Agreement
- Amendment No. 2 to HuffMaster Agreement
- Amendment No. 1 to HuffMaster Agreement
- Agreement with HuffMaster Crisis Response, Inc.

Attachments on file with the Clerk of the Board