



# County of Monterey

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

## Board Report

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**File #:** A 19-350, **Version:** 1

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- a. Authorize the Deputy Purchasing Agent for Natividad Medical Center (NMC) or his designee to execute a Program Letter of Agreement with Companeros en Salud for rotation of Natividad physician Residents with an agreement term retroactive to September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2021.
- b. Approve the NMC Chief Executive Officer's recommendation to accept non-standard indemnification and insurance provisions within the agreement.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

- a. Authorize the Deputy Purchasing Agent for Natividad Medical Center (NMC) or his designee to execute a Program Letter of Agreement with Companeros en Salud for rotation of Natividad physician Residents with an agreement term retroactive to September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2021.
- b. Approve the NMC Chief Executive Officer's recommendation to accept non-standard indemnification and insurance provisions within the agreement.

### **SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:**

The Natividad Family Medicine Residency will partner with Companeros en Salud, a Mexico based nonprofit organization, to provide high-quality, safe and ethical Global Health elective rotations for our family medicine residents. Natividad attracts residents seeking full spectrum family medicine training to prepare them to care for underserved and rural communities as well as to work in international sites. Global Health elective rotations are a standard educational offering at the majority of family medicine residency programs in the US. Companeros en Salud (CES) is a well-established nonprofit health organization that provides care to rural communities in the Mexican state of Chiapas. Their educational division is overseen by a UCSF affiliated pediatrician, Dr. Patrick Newman, who is well-known to our Natividad global health group, including Dr. Chris Carpenter who has worked extensively with Dr. Newman in Haiti.

This global health educational partnership will support month-long resident elective rotations in Chiapas. Residents who choose to do this elective will live in community with a Mexican primary care physician, partnering with them in caring for patients at home and in the clinic in the community they are responsible for. Once a month, affiliated physicians (Mexican staff and visiting physicians) gather in the CES headquarters for day-long global health education sessions.

Natividad's partnership in the UCSF HEAL Global health Fellowship also will complement this arrangement. Starting in July 2020, Natividad-based HEAL Global health Fellows will rotate half-time with Companeros en Salud in Chiapas. Our previous HEAL fellows rotated at various international sites (in Africa and India, for example). With the goal of having the fellows' global health work inform their work in Monterey County and the Salinas Valley, we arranged for HEAL to assign our fellows to CES in Chiapas. This creates synergy for the residency partnership by providing continuity with CES, and also by having the fellows available as additional on-site mentors for residents who rotate at CES.

Natividad Family Medicine Residents care for many immigrant patients from Mexico at the Laurel Family Practice Clinic and in the hospital at Natividad. Those who choose to participate in this global health rotation will gain valuable insights into the health care system in which their patients have received care previously and will better understand their patients' culture and language, enhancing the care our patients receive at Natividad and Laurel Family Practice. Residents' increased confidence in and commitment to caring for this community will result in more retention of graduates as primary care providers in Monterey County.

### **OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:**

County Counsel has reviewed and approved this agreement as to legal form, and the Auditor-Controller has reviewed and approved as to payment provisions. The agreement has also been reviewed and approved by NMC's Board of Trustees Executive Committee on July 2, 2019.

**FINANCING:**

There is no cost associated with this agreement.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:**

Residents who choose to participate in this global health rotation will better understand their Mexican immigrant patients' culture and language, enhancing the care our patients receive at Natividad and Laurel Family Practice. Offering a well-supported global health experience in Mexico for our residents allows Natividad to attract and select the most highly qualified residency applicants, particularly those who are committed to Natividad's mission and to addressing health disparities for our patient population. Successfully recruiting residents who are committed to our mission and providing training to help them better care for their patients in the Salinas Valley will result in better retention of our graduates in Monterey County.

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

Prepared by: Dr. Melissa Nothnagle, Director Family Medicine Residency, 783-2582

Approved by: Gary R. Gray, DO, Chief Executive Officer, 783-2504

**Attachments:**

Program Letter of Agreement with Companeros en Salud

Attachments on file with the Clerk of the Board