

**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO  
CALIFORNIA**

For the Agenda of:  
September 14, 2006

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Sheriff's Department

Subject: REPORT BACK - Justification For Additional Funds Request To Add Eight (8) Clinical And One (1) Administrative Position To Staff The Roger Bauman Facility

Contact: John O'Shaughnessy, Chief, Correctional Health Services – 875-4436

**Overview**

The purpose of this report is to provide an analysis justifying the additional funds request to add one Nurse Practitioner, seven Registered Nurses and one Office Assistant to the Roger Bauman Facility, for the provision of inmate health care, as required by Title 15 of the California Administrative Code. The analysis is based on the increase in the average daily population (ADP) at RCCC over the past four years, resulting in an increased need for medical services.

**Recommendation**

That the Board receive and file this requested information.

**Measures/Evaluation**

The additional direct patient care positions at the Roger Bauman Facility will ensure that the inmates housed there will have proper access to medications, sick call and urgent/emergent medical treatment so that health care concerns are addressed quickly and appropriately, avoiding exacerbation of existing medical conditions, development of new medical conditions and potential harm to the patient.

**Fiscal Impact**

The additional funds request will result in a cost increase of \$927,514 to the Correctional Health Services (CHS) budget for Fiscal Year 2006-07.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Board of Supervisors has requested, as part of the Final Fiscal Year 2006-07 budget deliberations, an analysis justifying the additional funds request for one (1) Nurse Practitioner, seven (7) Registered Nurses and one (1) Office Assistant to staff the Roger Bauman Facility.

Nurse to patient ratios within the jails has a definite impact on patient care. It is imperative that staffing within the medical units increase in proportion to the inmate population served if CHS is to give the level of care required by Title 15 of the California Administrative Code and to provide the community standard of care.

Medication administration (pill call) and nurse sick call are the basic medical services provided to inmates at RCCC on a 24/7 basis. The ADP at RCCC has risen steadily since 2003, resulting in an increased need for these essential services. During this same time, the ADP at the Main Jail remained constant (2,296 in 2003 vs. 2289 in 2005), so it was not possible to transfer medical staff from the Main Jail.

### **Medication Administration**

The table below illustrates the increased ADP and the increased demand for medication services at RCCC between 2003 and 2006.

<b>Year</b>	<b>ADP</b>	<b>Average Daily Pill Call Population</b>	<b>Nurse to Patient Ratio</b>
2003	1,477	503	2:503
2004	1,688	773	3:773
2005	1,822	951	3:951
2006	1,883 (through 8/06)	1100	4:1100

In 2003, the nurse to patient ratio for pill administration was 2:503 (each nurse averaging 252 patients per pill call). In Fiscal Year 2003-04, your Board allocated an additional six (6) Registered Nurses and one (1) Physician to staff the Sandra Larson Facility. One of the nursing positions was assigned to medication administration; therefore the ratio remained constant at 3:773 (each nurse averaging 257 patients per pill call).

However, in 2005, the demand for medications rose to 951 patients per day, and the Correctional Health Services did not receive additional medical staff. The nurse to patient ratio was 3:951 (each nurse averaging 317 patients per pill call). In 2006, the need for medications increased again, with a nurse to patient ratio of 3:1100 (each nurse averaging 366 patients per pill call). In order to support this essential service, an additional nurse was pulled from nurse sick call, another mandatory service, making the current nurse to patient ratio 4:1100 (each nurse averaging 250 patients per pill call).

It should be noted that the average daily number of inmates receiving medication has increased at a disproportionately higher rate than the ADP. This is due to the following factors:

- The Sandra Larson Facility for women was opened in 2003. Female inmates historically have required more medications and a higher level of care than men.
- Mental health programs have been expanded at RCCC, increasing the need for psychotropic medications.

- Older inmates, as well as those in poor health, who generally require more medications, have been transferred to RCCC in recent years to relieve the strain on the Main Jail.

### **Nurse Sick Call**

At RCCC, nurse sick call is provided once per day, five days per week, on an average. The Institute of Medical Quality (IMQ) has set a standard work load for nurse sick call at 28 patients per nurse per day, making the sick call nurse to patient ratio 1:28. Our current staffing pattern assigns four (4) Registered Nurses to this function.

As with medication administration, the table below illustrates that the increase in the ADP from 2003 to 2006 has resulted in an increase in the demand for medical services.

<b>Year</b>	<b>ADP</b>	<b>Total Patients Seen During the Year</b>
2003	1,477	Not Available
2004	1,688	17,010
2005	1,822	20,944
2006	1,883 (through 8/06)	15,447 (through 8/06) 23,172 projected

Currently, the medical unit at RCCC receives a daily average of 200 sick call requests collectively from RCCC and the Sandra Larson Facility. However, the average number of patients processed through sick call is 131 per day. We assign four registered nurses to provide this service, therefore the nurse to patient ratio is 1:33, which is only slightly above the IMQ recommendation. However, because we are only able to see 131 out of the 200 inmates who sign up for sick call each day, we are only able to process 66% of the workload.

The remainder of the patients may be referred to a physician at RCCC, or their needs are met through urgent and emergent care services that are provided by outside medical facilities. This is a costly alternative to treating patients in-house.

It should also be noted that, in addition to medication administration and sick call, the RCCC nursing staff provides primary care services to patients in the medical units, and urgent and emergent medical care as needed.

### **DISCUSSION:**

In order to provide appropriate health care to the 300 inmates at RBF, the Sheriff's Department has determined that the following additional positions are needed: one (1) Nurse Practitioner for clinical oversight; seven (7) Registered Nurses around the clock for

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pill call, sick call and direct patient care, and one (1) Office Assistant for administrative support. The table below shows how the new staff will be deployed.

Position	Shift	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
RN	Day	1	2	2	2	2	2	1
	PM	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Night	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
NP	Day		1	1	1	1	1	
OA II	Day		1	1	1	1	1	

Two (2) Registered Nurses will staff the day shift, Monday through Friday. One will conduct sick call, which IMQ standards require five days per week. The other will conduct pill call and provide general patient care. One nurse will be needed for the afternoon, evening and weekend shifts, to distribute medications and for patient oversight. The Nurse Practitioner and Office Assistant will be available during the day shift, Monday through Friday.

These additional positions will alleviate the staffing shortage for pill call and will allow more inmates to access sick call upon request. Currently, our nurses are able to immediately attend to only 64% of the inmates who are requesting medical attention. The others may be referred to a physician if their condition warrants it, or they are sent to a local medical facility, at a much higher cost.

**MEASURES/EVALUATION:**

The additional direct patient care positions at the Roger Bauman Facility will ensure that the inmates housed there will have proper access to medications, sick call and urgent/emergent medical treatment so that health care concerns are addressed quickly and appropriately, avoiding exacerbation of existing medical conditions, development of new medical conditions and potential harm to the patient.

**FINANCIAL ANALYSIS:**

The additional funds request will result in a cost increase of \$927,514 to the Correctional Health Services budget for Fiscal Year 2006-07.

Respectfully submitted,

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 JOHN MCGINNESS, Sheriff  
 Sacramento County Sheriff's Department

CONCUR:  
 TERRY SCHUTTEN  
 County Executive

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
 GEOFFREY B. DAVEY  
 Chief Financial/Operations Officer