

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL **DATE:** September 16, 2002
FROM: CYNTHIA J. KURTZ, CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: Support for Funding for the Bill Moore Community Health Clinic

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the Mayor to send correspondence to the appropriate County authorities to request support for funding for the Bill Moore Community Health Clinic.

BACKGROUND

The County of Los Angeles, not unlike communities across the state of California, is faced with a reduction in the amount of funding available to support much needed health care services. Unfortunately, those who are most adversely affected are the low-income uninsured, underinsured and the working poor due to their dependence upon safety net providers for basic health services and treatment of chronic medical disorders. Northwest Pasadena and the surrounding areas have been documented as areas of great need based on income and accessibility of medical care. The 91103 zip code has the lowest median household income and, moreover, fails to meet the recommended standard for the physician-to-population ratio.

Since 1994, the Urban Revitalization Development Corporation's (URDC) Bill Moore Community Health Clinic, has been an essential component of this community's health services safety net, providing free and low cost primary health care to residents of the Pasadena, Altadena, and West San Gabriel Valley. Located in Northwest Pasadena, the Bill Moore Clinic provides general family medicine, communicable disease testing, dental screening, health maintenance and management, and preventive care, including immunizations, laboratory work and medications. In total, the Clinic provides more than 8,000 medical visits annually to low-income uninsured, underinsured and the working

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poor. Seventy-five percent of those receiving services at the Clinic live in the City of Pasadena and reside in the 91103 and 91104 zip codes.

Through a partnership with Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, the Bill Moore Clinic administered the Public Private Partnership (PPP) program, serving individuals who are under 133% of poverty. Under this program, the Bill Moore Clinic served more than 2,000 people and provided nearly 6,000 medical visits and 950 case management services during FY 2001-2002. Effective September 30, 2002, this contract will be discontinued, and \$550,000 in funding for services will be eliminated. Loss of this funding also jeopardizes funding support for the Bill Moore Clinic from private foundations and other entities, thus threatening the long-term sustainability of the Clinic.

The discontinuation of the Bill Moore Clinic's PPP program will be extremely taxing to an already overloaded health care system. The existing provider community will be challenged to meet the need for services. Without access to regular health care, people with acute and chronic conditions will go without treatment, ancillary services, follow-up, and medications. Their illnesses and health problems will be exacerbated and life threatening. More than 50% of Bill Moore Clinic's patients rely on the Clinic for chronic disease management, including medications. Without these medications they may face serious disability and/or death.

The loss of funding reduces community capacity to care for uninsured and low-income children and adults. Although funded, CHAP will not be able to absorb the number of patients in need of referral who are currently served by Bill Moore Clinic on a walk-in basis. Consequently, further increases are likely in the inappropriate use of area emergency rooms and emergency transport services – a system that is already overburdened due to the closure of St. Luke Medical Center and other area service cutbacks. Loss of this funding also jeopardizes ongoing support for the Bill Moore Clinic from other funders, thus threatening the long-term sustainability of the Clinic.

FISCAL IMPACT

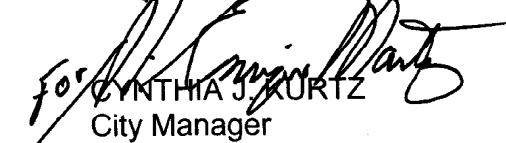
This action will have no fiscal impact on the City of Pasadena.

Prepared by:



for Wilma J. Allen
Director of Public Health

Respectfully submitted,



CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
City Manager