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Sacramento County Primary Health Services Receives \$225,000 Funds Will Help with Federal Health Reform Transition

Sacramento, CA., On September 21, 2010, the Sacramento County Primary Health Services was awarded \$225,000 from Blue Shield of California Foundation to assist the transition of coverage to many who are not currently eligible for health care services.

The funds were part \$1.9 million that Blue Shield is investing to help 12 California counties plan for expansion in public health coverage while building a bridge to the coverage expansions envisioned under federal health reform that will take effect in 2014.

“We are extremely pleased to receive this award,” said Agency Administrator Bruce Wagstaff. “The much needed funds will help us with the transition and provide more care for those in need.”

Background: In 2007 California established the Health Care Coverage Initiative (HCCI) under the current section 1115 Demonstration Waiver to provide coverage to medically indigent adults (MIA) who are not otherwise eligible for Medi-Cal in 12 California counties. The current HCCI offers coverage and organized care delivery to a share of the population that will become eligible for Medi-Cal in 2014 under federal health care reform. Unfortunately, Sacramento County was not one of the 12 counties in HCCI.

Blue Shield of California Foundation has a long history of supporting innovation in healthcare. As part of their mission, they have focused their resources on strengthening the healthcare safety net and serving as a catalyst for healthcare coverage. Consistent with these goals, they have offered all counties not currently included in the HCCI, the opportunity to apply to obtain much needed healthcare consultation.

This HCCI expansion represents an essential step forward in California’s efforts to responsibly and successfully transition to comprehensive federal health reform and the required coverage of the MIA population and development of organized delivery systems of care. The item will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on October 5, 2010.

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