

NOTICE

PROPOSED CHANGES IN KERN MEDICAL CENTER SERVICES

On Tuesday, March 17, 2009, at 9 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Board of Supervisors Chambers located at 1115 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, California, the Kern County Board of Supervisors will hold hearings on proposed changes, including reductions in services provided at Kern Medical Center located at 1700 Mount Vernon Avenue, Bakersfield, Kern County, California.

This Notice is being provided, and the hearing will be conducted, pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section 1442.5.

For more information you may contact Kern Medical Center 24 hours a day at (661) 326-2000.

Kern Medical Center (“KMC”) has developed an action plan in response to the FY 2008-2009 and FY 2009-2010 budget crisis experienced by the County of Kern (“County”). This crisis developed due to significant funding reductions from the state of California, delays and deferrals of payments from the state of California, and reductions in available revenue due to the nationwide recession and economic downturn. In response to the impacts of these factors, the Kern County Board of Supervisors has directed all County departments to evaluate all programs to determine which programs can be eliminated or reduced that are not considered essential to the core mission of the department. KMC administration has reviewed all program functions performed by the hospital and determined that the programs listed below are not essential to the core mission of KMC and can be reduced or eliminated without any or significant impact to the mandated services for indigent patients that the hospital provides.

Presented on the attached is a list of the proposed changes, by facility and service, including the type of each proposed change, the expected savings, if any, the number of persons affected and the expected date of the proposed change. Proposed staff reductions include regular, per diem and extra help positions and registry personnel (a.k.a. “travelers”). Where reductions of staff have occurred an impact statement is provided. Impact statements are categorized by hospital cost center.

At any time not later than the hour set for the hearing, any person may submit written objections to the proposed change in services offered by KMC. Any written objections shall be signed by the objecting party, and be delivered to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

Anyone wishing to present evidence or be heard regarding this matter may appear at the hearing of this matter, or any continuation thereof. If you challenge the action taken by the Board of Supervisors on this matter in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this Notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Board of Supervisors at or prior to the public hearing.

As a courtesy to the public, this Notice has been published in The Bakersfield Californian.

1. **Psychiatric Unit:** Provides inpatient psychiatric services to adults on voluntary and involuntary basis.

Site: Kern Medical Center, Unit 3-B; 1700 Mount Vernon Avenue, Bakersfield, California 93306.

Nature of Reduction or Change: Reduce the number of available beds from 25 to a minimum of six. There are two bed closure scenarios. The first reduces the number of beds from 25 to 12. The second reduces the number of beds from 25 to a minimum of six.

Staff Reductions – 12 beds:

- 4 Registered Nurses – reassign to other inpatient units
- 5 Registered Nurse Travelers – delete from psychiatric unit staffing
- 4 Registered Nurse Travelers – delete from inpatient staffing
- 5 Nursing Attendants – reassign to other inpatient units
- 8 Extra Help Nursing Attendants – delete
- 5 Extra Help Nursing Attendants – delete from inpatient staffing
- 1 Medical Social Worker – reassign to other inpatient units
- 2 Medical Social Workers – delete vacant positions
- 1 Extra Help Medical Social Worker – delete
- 1 Mental Health Recovery Specialist – delete

Staff Reductions – six beds:

- 6 Registered Nurses – reassign to other inpatient units
- 5 Registered Nurse Travelers – delete
- 6 Registered Nurse Travelers – delete from inpatient staffing
- 8 Extra Help Nursing Assistants – delete
- 6 Nursing Attendants – reassign to other inpatient units
- 6 Extra Help Nursing Attendants – delete from inpatient staffing
- 3 Medical Support Technicians – reassign to other inpatient units
- 3 Extra Help Medical Support Technicians – delete from inpatient staffing
- 2 Extra Help Medical Support Technicians – delete from psychiatric unit staffing
- 1 Medical Social Worker – reassign to other inpatient units
- 2 Medical Social Workers – delete vacant positions
- 1 Extra Help Medical Social Worker – delete
- 1 Mental Health Recovery Specialist – delete

Patients Affected:

- 12 beds – approximately 400 patients annually
- Six beds – approximately 600 patients annually

The County contracts with Good Samaritan Hospital Southwest and Crestwood Behavioral Health Center for inpatient beds. Good Samaritan is located at 5201 White Lane, Bakersfield, California 93309; (661) 398-1800. Crestwood is located at 6600 Eucalyptus Drive, Bakersfield, California 93306; (661) 363-8127.

Expected Savings:

12 beds – \$3,600,000 annually
Six beds – \$4,500,000 annually

Expected Date of Proposed Change:

12 beds – March 31, 2009
Six beds – April 10, 2009

2. **Transitional Year Residency Program:** Provides fundamental clinical education to medical school graduates for a period of one year.

Site: Kern Medical Center; 1700 Mount Vernon Avenue, Bakersfield, California 93306.

Nature of Reduction or Change: Eliminate transitional year residency program.

Staff Reductions:

6 Resident Physician positions – delete
1 Part-time Residency Program Director – reassign to Department of Medicine
1 Program Specialist - delete

Patients Affected: None. Patient care duties will be absorbed by existing house staff and faculty physician assigned to affected clinical departments.

Expected Savings: \$400,000 annually

Expected Date of Proposed Change: July 1, 2010