



**Health & Human Services  
Agency  
COUNTY OF TULARE  
AGENDA ITEM**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

KUYLER CROCKER  
District One  
PETE VANDER POEL  
District Two  
AMY SHUKLIAN  
District Three  
EDDIE VALERO  
District Four  
DENNIS TOWNSEND  
District Five

**AGENDA DATE:** April 7, 2020

Public Hearing Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Published Notice Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advertised Published Notice	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meet & Confer Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Electronic file(s) has been sent	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Personnel Resolution attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s)	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
CONTACT PERSON: Staci Chastain    PHONE: 624-8481				

**SUBJECT:** Approve an agreement with Valley Children’s Hospital

**REQUEST(S):**  
That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the CareLink Agreement with Valley Children’s Hospital to permit County employees access to Valley Children’s Hospital patient healthcare information on a limited basis for billing and healthcare purposes in the amount of zero dollars.
2. Authorize the Chair of the Board to sign two (2) copies of the agreement.

**SUMMARY:**  
Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency is requesting approval to enter into an agreement with Valley Children’s Hospital for the purpose of accessing their new healthcare system, CareLink. It is necessary to provide this access to County employees for the purpose of providing quality and collaborative care to County clinic patients that are hospitalized at the Kaweah Delta Health Center. In the past, County employees were given access to Valley Children’s previous electronic health record system for billing and/or healthcare purposes.

This agreement would have gone to the board previously, however, due to the COVID 19 emergency, HHS resources were diverted to response activities. This agreement is critical to continue collaboration and coordination between HHS and Valley Children’s Hospital for the continuity of health care, including data sharing and emergency response during a pandemic, as well as on-going patient needs.

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Continuity of care is a hallmark and primary objective of family medicine and is consistent with quality patient care provided through a patient-centered medical home, an initiative and recognition that Tulare County Health Care Center received in 2017. Providing employees appropriate access to this system will allow for the continuity of care required to maintain our recognition.

Accessed information will be confidential in nature. County employees that access this data will be required to protect the privacy and security of the private health information contained in the EHR system in compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Agreement (HIPAA). Only employees with a justifiable purpose will be granted access to the system by Valley Children's Hospital and will be required to access only the minimally necessary information to complete their task.

The following term deviates substantively from standard County boilerplate: (1) Section 8.7-Dispute Resolution calls for a three step dispute resolution process with the final step being the waiving of rights, if any, to a jury trial, and to submit to arbitration (2) County must sign first.

**FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:**

This agreement has no monetary obligations; therefore, approval of this agreement will result in no Net County Cost to the General Fund.

**LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:**

The County's five-year strategic plan includes the Quality of Life Initiative that promotes a healthy citizenry. This Agreement allows for appropriate recording and billing of medical care to be provided to County citizens while being treated at Valley Children's Hospital.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:**

/s/Robert Stewart OBO  
Karen M. Elliott  
Director of Public Health

cc: County Administrative Office

Attachment(s) Agreement

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

INTHE MATTER OF APPROVE AN )  
AGREEMENT WITH VALLEY CHILDREN'S )  
HOSPITAL

) Agreement No. \_\_\_\_\_  
)

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR \_\_\_\_\_, SECONDED BY  
SUPERVISOR \_\_\_\_\_, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSTAIN:  
ABSENT:

ATTEST: JASON T. BRITT  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/  
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

\* \* \* \* \*

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