

**COUNTY OF SONOMA
AGENDA ITEM
SUMMARY REPORT**

Clerk of the Board Use Only
Meeting Date _____ Held Until _____
Agenda Item No: _____ Agenda Item No: _____

Department: Health Services

() 4/5 Vote Required

Contact:
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Phone:
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Board Date:
5/5/09

Deadline for Board Action:
5/5/09

AGENDA SHORT TITLE: Nurses Week

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:

Resolution declaring May 6-12, 2009 as Nurses Week in Sonoma County.

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT

EXPENDITURES

Estimated Cost \$0

Amount Budgeted

Other Avail Approp
(Explain below)

Additional Requested: \$0

Explanation (if required):

ADD'L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL

Contingencies
(Fund Name:)

Unanticipated Revenue
(Source:)

Other Transfer(s)
(Source:)

Add'l Funds Requested: \$0

Prior Board Action(s): 5/6//08 - Declared May 6 – 12, 2008 as Nurses' Week in Sonoma County.

Alternatives – Results of Non-Approval: Lost opportunity to recognize nurses for their contributions to the health and well-being of the community.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Health Services (DHS) requests that the Board of Supervisors declare May 6-12, 2009 as Nurses Week in Sonoma County. The national theme for the week is *“Nurses: Building A Healthy America”*. According to Rebecca Patton, president of the American Nurses Association, “Nursing is often described as both an art and a science. This year’s theme reflects the commitment that nurses make every day for their patients and the compassion and quality of care they provide for their community”.

Of the over 2.9 million nurses being acknowledged throughout the nation, 347,625 reside in California. DHS employs 91 nurses (24 in Mental Health and 67 in Public Health) including licensed vocational nurses, registered nurses, psychiatric nurses, public health nurses and nurse practitioners. They provide health assessment, counseling, referral, and medication services to a diverse population of clients with varied health, social, and economic strengths and needs. DHS nurses provide services in a variety of community settings including: homes, clinics, offices, mental health sites, human services facilities, senior centers, and correctional facilities. Nurses are an integral part of how the County cares for and continually learns about its residents. They care for individuals and families and provide expertise to numerous community groups such as the Community Activity Nutrition Coalition and the Perinatal Alcohol & Other Drug Action Team that plan and implement projects to enhance health throughout the County.

Nationally, nurses comprise the largest number of health care professionals working to improve health care. According to a 2005 Gallup Poll, 82% of Americans ranked the nursing profession as “high” or “very high” for honesty and integrity. The Bureau of Labor Statistics states that registered nurses top the list of the ten occupations with the largest job growth (623,000) from 2002-2012. However, a shortage of one million nurses is projected by the end of the decade due to increased need, retirements, and not enough new nurses entering the profession.

Nurses Week is devoted to highlighting the diverse ways in which nurses are working to improve health care. From bedside nursing in hospitals and long-term care facilities, to less traditional settings such as mental and public health, research institutions, state legislatures and Congress, the nursing profession seeks to meet society’s expanding health care needs. Nurses Week presents an opportunity for Sonoma County to recognize nurses for all that they do to improve the health and well being of individuals, families and our community.

Attachments: Resolution declaring May 6-12, 2009 as Nurses Week in Sonoma County.

On File With Clerk: None.

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than "Requested")	Vote:

