RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2020-77

MEETING: February 18, 2020

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Dallin Kimble, County Administrative Officer

RE: Letter of Support for CHCA

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Approve a Letter of Support for Community Health Centers of America (CHCA); and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Letter.

Community Health Centers of America (CHCA) is pursuing designation as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in Mariposa. An FQHC would benefit the community by increasing the number of primary care providers.

Currently, there is one primary care physician for every three thousand residents in Mariposa County, well below the standard in the rest of the state of one provider per 1280 residents. The lack of primary care has contributed to a premature death rate well above both the state and national levels. An FQHC could also serve as a medical home to provide services beyond primary care to include behavioral health and dental care.

This action is aligned with both the County Strategic Plan and the Community Health Improvement Plan. Staff recommends approval at this time.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board has routinely approves letters of support for issues that they believe will benefit the citizens of Mariposa County.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
If the Board does not approve the letter, it will be not be submitted. Individual Board members may write their own letters of support at that time, which may not carry the same weight as a letter from the entire Board.

ATTACHMENTS:
2020.02 Letter of Support CHCA (DOCX)
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RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor
SECONDER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor
AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetrey
February 18, 2020

Community Health
Centers of America 5320
Hwy 49 North
Mariposa, CA 95338

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, we are pleased to write this letter of support for Community Health Centers of America’s (CHCA) pursuit of its Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Look-Alike designation. Mariposa County, which encompasses the proposed service area for CHCA, is committed to improving the health and wellness of our residents. This includes support in principle for the presence of an FQHC Look-Alike to provide services for the at-risk population mutually and collaboratively served by our organizations.

An FQHC would benefit our community by increasing the number of primary care providers. Currently, there is one primary care physician for every three thousand residents in Mariposa County. This is well below the statewide average of one primary care physician for every 1280 residents. The lack of primary care has contributed to a premature death rate well above both the state and national levels. An FQHC could also serve as a medical home to provide services beyond primary care to include behavioral health and dental care.

CHCA has the potential to fill this significant gap in access to care in Mariposa. While currently staffed with a mid-level provider, we anticipate that with FQHC Look-Alike designation and adequate resourcing that CHCA could develop a robust capacity to meet the needs of our residents.

As stated in our Strategic Plan and Community Health Improvement Plan, Mariposa County is committed to increasing access to quality health care services. We support the efforts of the Community Health Centers of America in pursuing FQHC Look-Alike Designation thus providing the financial stability needed to expand their services and access. Please accept this letter as our endorsement of their application.

Sincerely,

Kevin Cann, Chair
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors