



CORIZON COMMITTED TO CONTINUED CARE AS ALAMEDA COUNTY STAFF RECOMMENDS CHANGE

Longtime Care Provider Protests Lack of Transparency in Bid Process

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oakland, CA – Corizon Health, Alameda County's 28-year provider of correctional healthcare, is protesting a recommendation to award the contract for inmate health services, concerned that the process does not allow for sufficient vetting of the prevailing company.

Corizon was advised April 29th of the recommendation by a six-member evaluation committee, comprised of county and sheriff's office staff and staff from neighboring counties, to award the new contract to California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG). County officials have said they won't release any additional information about the recommendation or evaluation process until just five days before the Board of Supervisors is slated to vote on it.

Attorneys for Corizon filed on May 6th a formal protest with the Alameda County General Services Administration, preserving Corizon's standing in the procurement until the proposals, qualifications and pricing may be fully vetted by the public and members of the Board of Supervisors. Corizon officials believe it is too big of a risk to see evidence of qualifications and details of proposals so close to the scheduled vote, particularly for a provider with such little experience serving a county as large as Alameda.

Corizon's clinical director in Alameda County, Dr. Harold Orr, expressed concern over continuity of care in the jails and the fracturing of community partnerships that he and his colleagues have worked hard over the years to establish. The recommended provider serves jails with an average size of 456 beds, one-sixth the size of Alameda County's. Santa Rita Jail and Glenn Dyer Detention Facility currently house 2,800 total inmates, a volume of patients CFMG is simply not qualified to serve, Orr said.

Orr said his team of care providers is committed to serving their patients despite learning about the recommendation from County staff.

"We've served this community for nearly three decades, and we're committed to

continued care in Alameda County,” Orr said. “We strongly believe we’re best suited to continue the hard work of providing health care in our County jails.”

Orr added he hopes Alameda County leaders, currently facing a \$72 million deficit, will consider three big factors: cost, continuity of care, and the checkered past of CFMG-run jails.

“Changing providers would likely waste millions of dollars, disrupt patient care and hand a multi-million-dollar government contract to a company that has struggled in jails with just half the population of Alameda’s,” Orr said,

Orr emphasized Corizon’s deep, long-standing commitment to the community.

“Simply put: We care,” Orr said. “My team has become deeply engaged in the civic fabric of this community over the past 28 years.

“Patients in the county jails are vulnerable enough as it is, and they’re the ones who would suffer from this kind of shakeup,” Orr said. “The County should prevent disruptions in care – not cause them.”

But Orr says he and his team are not discouraged.

“This is just the first step in a long process to ensure the County gets the best health care at the best cost,” Orr said. “We look forward to a continued conversation with County leaders.”

The Board of Supervisors is expected to first hear the matter June 7.

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About Corizon Health

Corizon Health is the nation’s leader in correctional health care, and has served Alameda County’s most vulnerable population since 1988. Through development of efficient and effective evidence-based medicine, Corizon has provided outstanding levels of care while reducing the overall cost to the County through robust re-entry programs and community partnerships forged through nearly 30 years in the community.

About Dr. Harold Orr

Dr. Harold Orr is the Clinical Director for Corizon Health in California, with over 30 years of medical practice experience – including more than 13 years in correctional medicine. Dr. Orr specializes in clinical strategies that promote quality, safety and cost-

effectiveness, determining medical policies and ensuring compliance with clinical performance standards in Alameda, Fresno, Santa Barbara and Tulare counties. Dr. Orr has been with Corizon since 1997, when he was named Regional Medical Director for the West Region. He went on to serve as Medical Director for the Philadelphia Prison System and returned home to Alameda County in 2001 as Medical Director for Alameda County Jails. He served as Regional Medical Director from May 2005 to March 2014 and assisted in implementation and transition services at new facilities in the region. He is a member of the Society of Correctional Physicians, and in January 2012 provided emergency medical services in Haiti following its devastating earthquake.