



# AGENDA MATERIAL

DATE 10/4/22 ITEM NO. CC 1

September 29, 2022

Melissa Manriquez  
Clerk of the Pima County Board of Supervisors  
33 N. Stone Avenue, Suite 100  
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Pima County Board of Supervisors,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me in recent weeks about the Intergovernmental Agreement between Pima County and AHCCCS that is on the Oct. 4 agenda. As discussed, the Access to Professional Services Initiative (APSI) provides support to hospitals that serve low-income and indigent patients and provide physician graduate medical education. Eligible hospitals, such as Tucson Medical Center, with qualified local match partners may enter into a public-private agreement to draw down federal matching funds for enhancement of graduate medical professional programs and expansion of access to necessary health care services in this community.

TMC Health, which includes Tucson Medical Center and TMCOne, is a nonprofit health system serving all of Pima County. More than 25% of the system's patient encounters are covered by AHCCCS, the state's Medicaid system. These encounters include primary, specialty, inpatient and emergency care. Many of these patients are new moms and their children.

Behavioral health is a critical component of the care provided to all patients. TMCOne incorporates a collaborative care model for behavioral health in its primary care practices, and in the system's inpatient and emergency care units, we care for patients medical and behavioral health needs every day. Our Emergency Department is one of two centers for individuals who have been sexually assaulted and TMC works with CODAC and the County to address wraparound services to support the mental health needs of those individuals.

Pima County faces a critical shortage of providers, as identified in the 2021 Pima County Community Health Needs Assessment. In that assessment access to care, and behavioral and mental health are identified as critical health priorities. In fact, 17 of the 23 Primary Care Areas in Pima County are designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) by the federal government, and 19 are designated Medically Underserved Areas (MUA) by the Arizona state government due to a shortage of health professional personnel.

APSI addresses these critical needs by providing critical federal funding for graduate medical education and expansion of primary and specialty care in our region.

TMC Health serves all of Pima County, from Oro Valley to Vail and beyond. We are expanding to serve more of our community, with a new \$80 million hospital scheduled to open next year at Drexel and Houghton and new investments to expand primary and specialty care availability in Green Valley.

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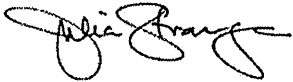
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In 2021, TMC Health spent \$47.5 million of its net revenues, or 6.7%, for programs and direct care that benefits the community. (see [issuu.com/tucsonmedicalcenter/docs/tmc-016\\_rtoc\\_21\\_pages](https://issuu.com/tucsonmedicalcenter/docs/tmc-016_rtoc_21_pages)). This includes \$11.3 million in uncompensated care and \$4.3 million in direct community support, outreach and education.

TMC Health has a long history of collaborating with Pima County and the Pima County Department of Health. The aforementioned support for victims of sexual assault in collaboration with CODAC is one example. Others include a public health town hall series developed in collaboration between TMC Health and Pima County Department of Health, a partnership to promote COVID and other vaccinations in our community, and so much more.

We request your support for the intergovernmental agreement before the Board this week that will draw down critical funds to allow us to continue to serve the most valuable in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julia Strange", with a stylized, cursive script.

Julia Strange  
Vice President, Community Benefit