

Quality and Productivity Commission
28th Annual Productivity and Quality Awards Program
"Los Angeles County: Ahead of the Curve"

2014 APPLICATION

Title of Project (Limited to 50 characters, including spaces, using Arial 12 point font):

NAME OF PROJECT: "GOING GREEN" AT HARBOR-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER

DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION/ADOPTION: FEBRUARY 2010- CURRENT
 (Must have been implemented at least one year - on or before June 30, 2013)

PROJECT STATUS: Ongoing One-time only

HAS YOUR DEPARTMENT PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED THIS PROJECT? Yes No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Describe the project in 15 lines or less using Arial 12 point font. Summarize the problem, solution, and benefits of the project in a clear and direct manner.

1 With the skyrocketing prices of medical equipment and disposables, members of
 2 the nursing department along with value analysis staff requested to initiate a recycling
 3 program for single-use patient care equipment. Through a third party FDA and county
 4 approved vendor, a contract was established to recycle versus purchasing new blood
 5 pressure cuffs, oxygen sensors and other disposables in the patient care units.

6 To ensure that the project was successful, a Going Green Campaign was
 7 created and there were round-the-clock trainings with staff to ensure that they were
 8 aware of the program and what could and could not be recycled. The staff were
 9 instrumental in determining where the recycle bins would be placed on each unit for
 10 ease of access and to ensure the availability for appropriate disposal.

11 Despite only recycling a limited number of single-use patient care equipment,
 12 substantial savings were optimized. Since inception the savings to date are \$324,471
 13 and for FY 2012-13- \$70,591. The staff were also excited and wanted to know when we
 14 could proceed with other recycling projects proving that "Going Green - Saves the
 15 Green!"

(1) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST AVOIDANCE	(2) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST SAVINGS	(3) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL REVENUE	(1) + (2) + (3) = TOTAL ANNUAL ACTUAL/ESTIMATED BENEFIT	SERVICE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT
\$ 65,000	\$ 70,591	\$ n/a	\$ 135,591	<input type="checkbox"/>

ANNUAL = 12 MONTHS ONLY

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS Department of Health Services, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center 1000 W. Carson Street Torrance, CA 90509	TELEPHONE NUMBER 310-222-1876 (FAX) 310-328-9624
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PROGRAM MANAGER'S NAME Irene Jung, RN, MSN and the Medical/Surgical Nurse Managers	TELEPHONE NUMBER 310-222-3141 EMAIL ijung@dhs.lacounty.gov
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PRODUCTIVITY MANAGER'S NAME AND SIGNATURE (PLEASE CALL (213) 893-0322 IF YOU DO NOT KNOW YOUR PRODUCTIVITY MANAGER'S NAME) Gerardo Pinedo 	DATE 7-14-14	TELEPHONE NUMBER 213-240-7948 EMAIL gpinedo@dhs.lacounty.gov
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DEPARTMENT HEAD'S NAME AND SIGNATURE Mitchell Katz, MD 	DATE 7-14-14	TELEPHONE NUMBER 213-240-8101
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1st FACT SHEET – LIMITED TO 3 PAGES ONLY: Describe the **Challenge, Solution, and Benefits** of the project.

Challenges

A major challenge in going “green” was implementing something that had not been done before and dealing with all of the “What if” questions and the “myths” about recycling programs. Some of the concerns dealt with how the quality control of the recycled products would be handled, how would this differ from what we were currently doing, how would the inventory be stocked, how frequently would the vendors come to take away the “disposed” equipment, etc.

Other challenges include obtaining buy-in from the end-users, how to implement, how to communicate the changes and how to track and monitor the progress.

Solutions

For buy-in, staff were involved in the round-the-clock training on recycling and determined where the recycling bins would be placed on the units for ease of disposal. The vendors came in and worked with the staff and educated and re-educated them on the process. Topics of the education included what happened to the disposables once they left the facility, how the quality control was handled at the recycling plant, how quality control was maintained so as to avoid any issues on utilizing recycled disposables on patients, and what types of single use devices would be part of the program.

The staff also identified that it would be helpful to have laminated signage indicating visual cues for what is disposed of where- this proved to be very helpful in ensuring compliance. Housekeeping was also involved in making sure the receptacles were cleaned every shift. In an effort to ensure that feedback was given to the direct line staff, the vendors supplied the medical center monthly records for each unit on the direct savings that were achieved which spurred competition amongst the units thus increasing the compliance level with the disposable recycling.

Benefits

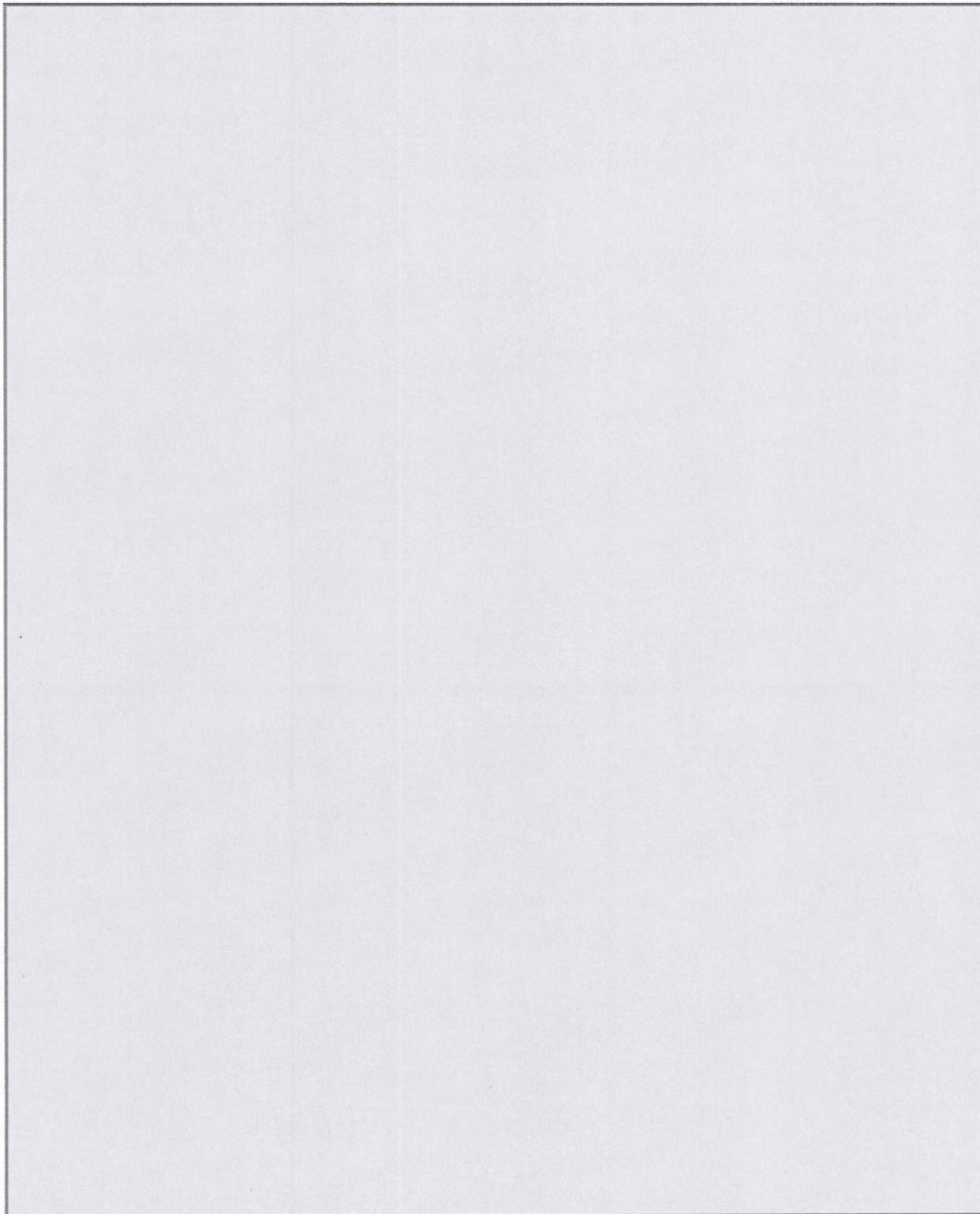
The benefits were not just financial, but positive emotions in knowing that what you as a direct care provider are doing is improving the overall environment. Going green impacted us financially by saving over \$324,471 since the inception of the project in which the savings for 2012-13 was \$70,591.

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LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN (DETAIL IS REQUIRED FOR COUNTY DEPARTMENTS):

GOAL #2- FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

This program strengthens and enhances the County's fiscal status through cost savings in the development of programs that not only save monies, but improve the environment.

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COST AVOIDANCE, COST SAVINGS, AND REVENUE GENERATED (ESTIMATED BENEFIT): If you are claiming cost benefits, include a calculation on this page. You must include an explanation of the County cost savings, cost avoidance or new revenue that matches the numbers in the box. Remember to keep your supporting documentation.

Cost Avoidance: Costs that are eliminated or not incurred as a result of program outcomes.

Cost Savings: A reduction or lessening of expenditures as a result of program outcomes.

Revenue: Increases in existing revenue streams or new revenue sources to the County as a result of program outcomes.

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