



## Hudson County jail med services contract voided, but contractor is kept on job

Published: Tuesday, January 19, 2010, 6:00 AM



**Melissa Hayes/The Jersey Journal**

By



JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

The Hudson County Board of Freeholders voted to void contract to provide medical services but keeps contractor at the county jail (pictured) and county juvenile detention center.

The **Hudson County Board of Freeholders** voted last week to **void a five-year contract** with Correctional Health Services, of Verona, for **medical services** at the **county jail** and juvenile detention center.

The move comes on the heels of last month's ruling by **Superior Court Assignment Judge Maurice Gallipoli** that questioned the awarding of the **\$29.7 million contract**.

James Kennelly, a county spokesman, said the resolution -- introduced by Freeholder William O'Dea and unanimously approved -- was a formality and the administration had already canceled the contract.

Kennelly said the county's attorney filed an emergency declaration so that CHS can continue to provide services at the same level as the August amendment.

The board awarded the \$29.7 million contract in April. But after a hired expert recommended staffing reductions the board made cuts and amended the contract to \$22 million in August.

The move landed the county in court after the high-bidder, CFG Health Systems, of Evesham, argued the cut constituted a new contract and it should have been rebid.

Gallipoli sided with CFG.

In his written decision, Gallipoli said a favored bidder could be told to "bid very low to get the award with the expectation that, despite the low bid, much less work than was called for in the bid specifications would need to be provided."

Kennelly said the county is appealing Gallipoli's ruling and hopes the case will be heard in the next three months.

"We believe the process was honest, we believe the language was honest and we believe we were in the right," Kennelly said. "If we lose the appeal in the next 90 days, we'll have to simply rebid."

© 2012 NJ.com. All rights reserved.