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## Nursing home has new medical director

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Staff Writer

**NEWPORT** — A new medical director was appointed to the Sullivan County Nursing Home during a commissioners' meeting Tuesday afternoon.

Dr. Sameer Chinoy, who will continue to practice family medicine at Newport Health Center where he has worked since 1999, will work about eight hours per month as the director and used mostly as a consultant, according to nursing home director Ted Purdy.

Chinoy earned his degree in 1979 from Grant Medical College

in Bombay, India. He completed his residency at Lutheran Medical Center in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1999 and is certified by the American Board of Family Practice.

Purdy announced at the meeting that the nursing home will be facing a new challenge when the state reduces Medicaid payments beginning Feb. 1.

According to Purdy, the nursing home is currently reimbursed \$155 per Medicaid patient per day by the state. That amount will be reduced between \$8 and \$10, but Purdy said he has not received a specific amount from the state.

This latest reduction in income comes on the heels of a projected multimillion dollar county budget shortfall expected at the end of the fiscal year. Interim county manager Greg Chanis said he already has begun to think about next year's budget, which begins July 1, and presented a possible time line to the commissioners.

Chanis said he first hopes to meet with department heads Jan. 23 and have their budgets submitted by Feb. 1. On March 4, Chanis will then submit the county manager's budget to the commissioners who will in turn submit a budget to the executive finance committee April 21.