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"We understand how difficult this is for the employees who are affected," MetroHealth President and CEO Mark Moran said. "We are doing everything we can to make their transition manageable."

According to the release, MetroHealth said it will provide outplacement services and workshops to help exiting employees find new positions.

The hospital system said the cuts came as a response to mid-year projections that showed MetroHealth could suffer operating losses of $6.3 million in 2011 and $21.1 million in 2012. So far in 2011, it said it's operating below budget.

MetroHealth blamed increases in non-reimbursed care, a decrease in the county subsidy and reductions in reimbursement from government programs and insurers for the shortfall.

MetroHealth did not say when the layoffs will take effect.