



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

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August 27, 2008

To: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
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Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF LAC+USC MEDICAL CENTER'S SURGE TO SURROUNDING HOSPITALS

On July 8, 2008, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, your Board instructed the Chief Executive Officer and Interim Director of the Department of Health Services (DHS) to start immediately to engage the potentially impacted hospitals surrounding LAC+USC Medical Center (LAC+USC) alerting them to the potential impact that LAC+USC's surge may have on their operations; assist potentially impacted hospitals surrounding LAC+USC where possible in developing a contingency plan to minimize the potential stress the surge may have on the region; and report back in 30 days on the progress made in this area.

DHS initiated a dialogue with administrators from 16 nearby community partner hospitals located within a 12-mile radius of LAC+USC with an invitation to tour the Replacement Facility followed by a meeting on relocation efforts. Attendance was highly encouraged in order to review and discuss mitigation efforts to accommodate the needs of the community and the healthcare system due to the impending move from the existing structure into a new building.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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That tour and meeting was held August 7, 2008, and attended by participants from six local community hospitals: California Hospital Medical Center; East Los Angeles Doctors Hospital; Garfield Medical Center; Greater El Monte Community Hospital; San Gabriel Valley Medical Center; and White Memorial Medical Center. The group was provided information about LAC+USC from a historical perspective, as well as an overview of the innovative systems and technological advancements integrated within the new hospital. Transition planning and patient capacity overflow were also addressed with emphasis on efforts underway to implement a contingency plan to provide additional beds at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center (RLA).

In addition, the Emergency Medical Systems (EMS) Agency, responsible for coordinating and monitoring the County's emergency medical services system, discussed plans to place LAC+USC on "Internal Disaster" (ID) diversion status just prior to and during the move to the Replacement Facility. Placing a facility on ID diversion redirects paramedic and basic life support ambulances to surrounding hospitals. LAC+USC will be placed on ID diversion status approximately four hours prior to the move, to aid in decompressing the emergency department patient numbers and acuity. EMS has initiated work with the surrounding facilities and provider agencies to pre-identify trauma centers that 911 patients will be diverted to during the move. This process was effectively implemented during the relocation of other facilities, such as UCLA Medical Center and White Memorial Medical Center.

Once the Replacement Facility is open, the emergency department capacity will be reported via the Rapid Emergency Digital Data Interface Network and normal diversion policies will be followed. To prevent overcrowding and the need for hospital diversion, staff from the Medical Alert Center will work with LAC+USC emergency department to identify appropriate patients for transfer to other facilities, such as RLA.

Representatives at the August 7, 2008 meeting requested, and DHS agreed to provide, at least two weeks advance notice of the final move date to allow hospitals in close proximity sufficient time to increase staffing levels for the designated move period. All attendees were given appropriate contact numbers and were requested to notify DHS of any adverse affects noted during the transition to the Replacement Facility. The tour and presentation were well received and there were limited questions.

We will advise your Board of any new developments and potential recommendations as LAC+USC moves closer to the upcoming opening of the Replacement Facility.

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If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me, or your staff may contact Dara Lark at (213) 974-2396, or at dlark@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:SRH:SAS
MLM:DSL:yb

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Interim Director, Department of Health Services

LAC+USC Surge Impact_mbs