Health Services
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

July 16, 2010

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

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TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: John F. Schunhoff, Ph.D.
Interim Director

SUBJECT: **STATUS REPORT ON KEY INDICATORS OF PROGRESS, HOSPITAL OPERATIONS, AND OTHER ISSUES RELATED TO THE TRANSITION TO THE NEW LAC+USC MEDICAL CENTER – PROGRESS REPORT #38 (Agenda Item #S-1, July 20, 2010)**

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To improve health through leadership, service and education.

This is to provide your Board with the bi-monthly report on the status of transitioning to the new LAC+USC Medical Center (LAC+USC) as well as provide additional requested information. This report is not the full monthly operational report but an interim report of Emergency Department and hospital admission volumes and specialty services with trends to include the month of June 2010.

Census Trending (ADC includes Psychiatric & Newborn Patients)

The Average Daily Census (ADC) for the month of June was 592 out of 671 licensed beds, an estimated 86% utilization rate (88% occupancy). The census for Medical/Surgical units was an estimated 97% utilization rate (99% occupancy) for June 2010.

Emergency Department (ED) Indicators

Attachment #1 demonstrates the trending of ED registration as well as admissions to both the ED and the hospital. The number of hospital admissions this period was 2988.

Specialty Services

Attachment #2 shows the ADC trends for specialty areas of OB/GYN, Pediatrics, ICU, Psychiatry, Jail and Burn Units with no significant changes.

Additional Information Requested

On June 23, 2010, your Board instructed the Interim Director of Health Services to report back on the following: 1) How many of the 71 licensed psychiatric beds were occupied during this period; and 2) Whether dangerously overcrowded situations are occurring at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center (H/UCLA) and Olive View-UCLA Medical Center (OVMC), and if so, how many hours were each of these hospitals dangerously overcrowded during the most recent reporting period May 2010) that was completed regarding the LAC+USC.

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Psychiatric Beds – During May, 2010, the ADC of psychiatric beds was 62.

Overcrowding – All of the DHS facilities experience surges in their EDs, similar to other safety net providers across the nation. Patient volume measuring tools, such as the National ED Overcrowding Study (NEDOCS) scoring system used by LAC+USC, are internal tools used to trigger specific institutional responses to reduce the ED crowding. The system is used to describe the degree of overcrowding.

The mechanisms used to measure volume of patients are different at each of the facilities, based on the geographic layout of each ED and the measuring tool each hospital has employed in order to best meet the needs of the facility and the regulatory requirements. Even though LAC+USC and H/UCLA both use (NEDOCS), H/UCLA only uses it for the adult ED, not pediatrics, because the greatest capacity issues at that facility are found in the adult ED areas. OVMC uses a custom ED tracking system. Furthermore, OVMC does not have trauma center, cardiac center and pediatric ED designation which creates additional variables but in no way diminishes the demand on the ED in that geographic area of the County.

For the period of May, 2010, H/UCLA's NEDOCs score for the "dangerously overcrowded" category was 14% of the hours or an average of approximately 3 hours per day. OVMC's electronic tracking ED system does not use the same overcrowding terminology, and therefore, cannot be converted into similar categories. Their system allows them to assess the number of patients at various stages, e.g., numbers of patients checking in, numbers of patients in triage, etc. They make adjustments to patient flow activities based on these volumes.

If you have any questions or need additional information please contact me or Carol Meyer, Chief Network Officer at (213) 240-8370.

JFS:CM:pm
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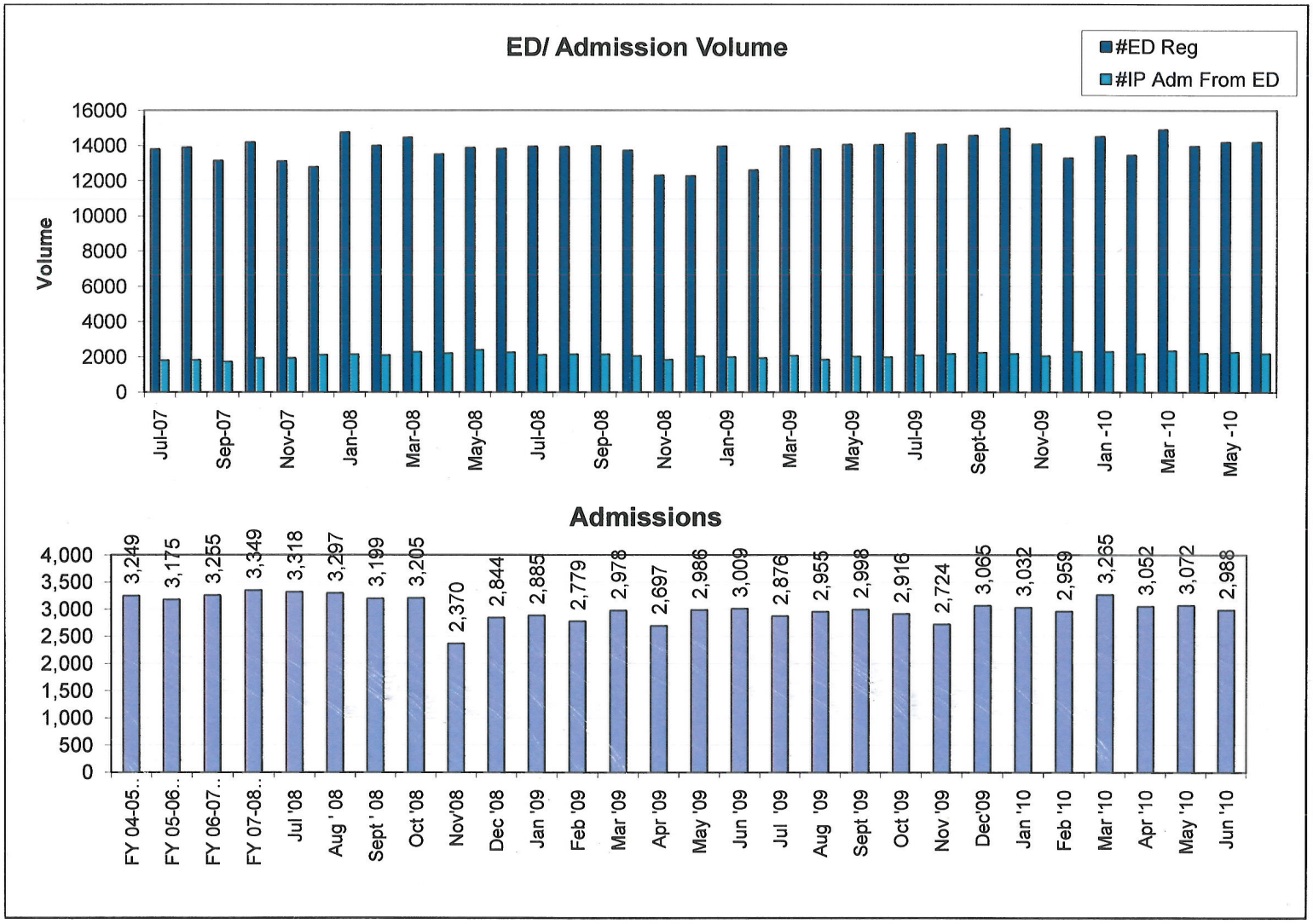
Attachments

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors

LAC+USC Medical Center
Workload Summary



ED registration is the number of patients accessing the ED (Registrations) and includes the following categories:

* Left without being seen
* Transferred to the UADC on the same day
* Admitted as an inpatient
* Dispositioned from the ED
* Women's Walk-in

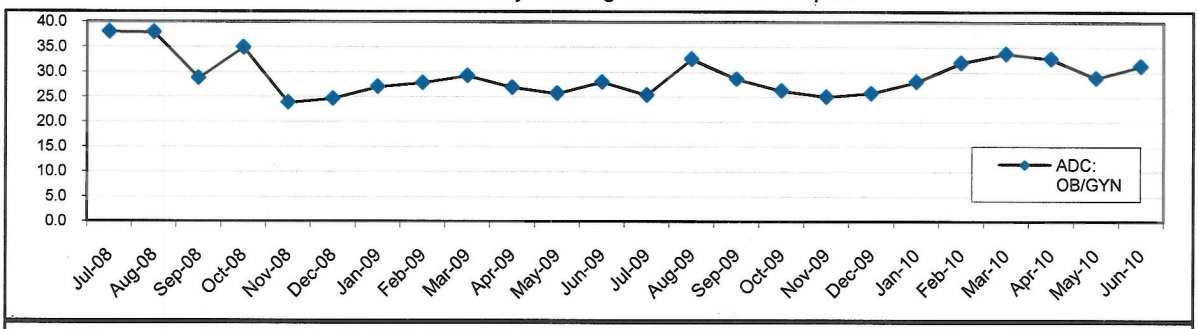
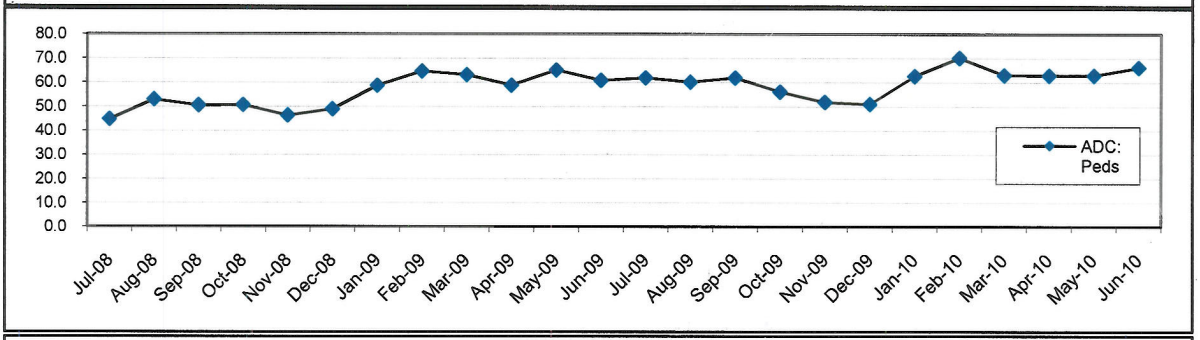
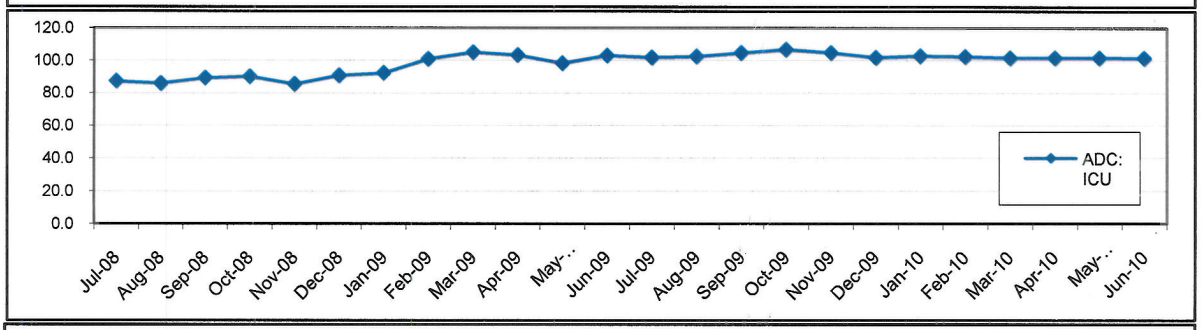
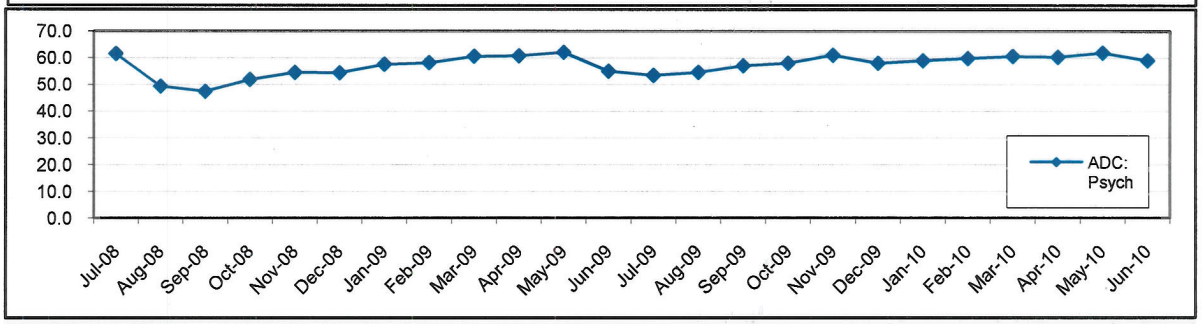
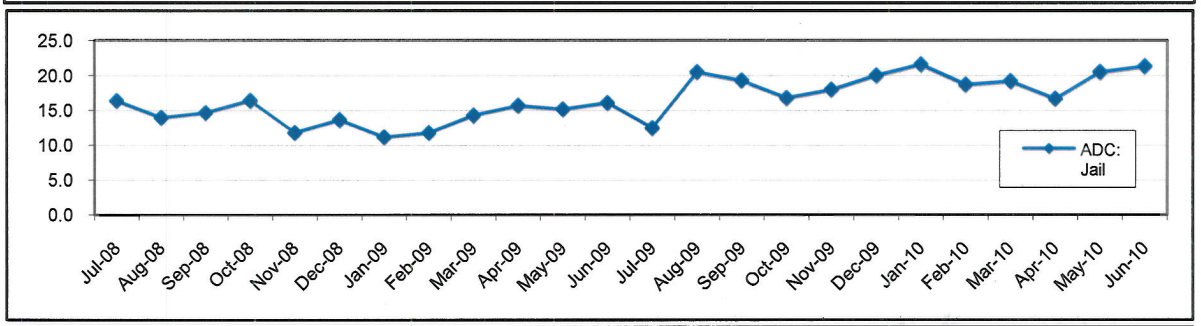
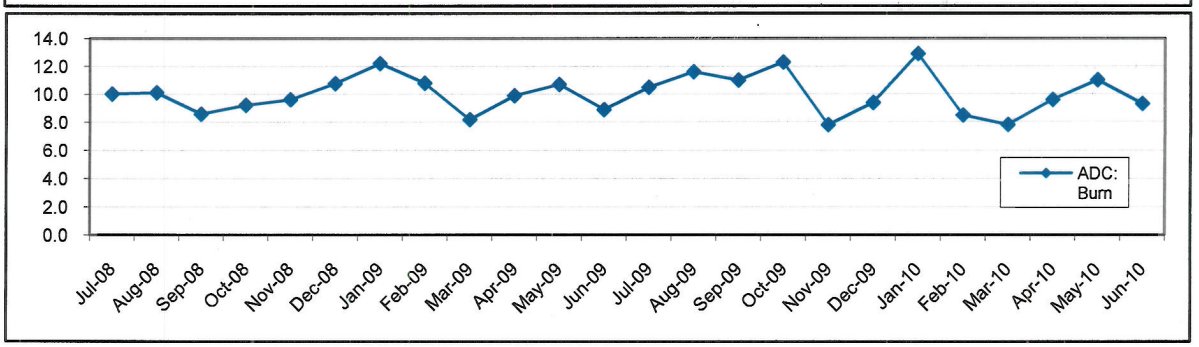
Data Source: Affinity QuadraMed System

7/8/2010

Attachment 1

Attachment 2

LAC+USC Healthcare Network

Average Daily Census by Nursing Unit Subset, July 2008 to June 2010

Based on Affinity Nursing Unit Statistical Report