

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS**

**DECEMBER 20, 2016**

**Care Harbor – Los Angeles**

According to the 2015 Los Angeles County (County) Health Survey, there were still 750,000 County residents who remain uninsured. While the numbers have reduced from previous years, there continues to be many challenges with accessing services. Approximately 23.6% (1,745,000) of residents say that medical care is somewhat or very difficult to access. Only 59% of residents reported even seeing a dentist or visiting a dental clinic for any reason in the past year.

For the past seven years, the County has been the site of eight of the largest metropolitan free clinics ever conducted. The first was held at the Forum in Inglewood, the second at the Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena and the third, produced in collaboration with former California First Lady Maria Shriver, was held at the Pyramid in Long Beach. The last five free clinics under the banner of Care Harbor – Los Angeles (LA), held from 2011 through 2015 took place at the Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena. Each event built upon the successes of the previous events and provided a range of health and wellness resources never before available under one roof at one time. Together, these eight events treated around 30,000 patients and delivered 90,924 medical, dental and vision services; free care valued at more than \$16 million.

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**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
DECEMBER 20, 2016  
PAGE 2**

The 2015 Care Harbor - LA free clinic provided more healthcare services per patient than any previous Care Harbor events, featuring expanded capabilities that respond to today's changing healthcare landscape. This growth in patient services reflects Care Harbor's commitment to sustainable care to make lasting change in the lives of the thousands who seek health services at the free clinic.

Care Harbor - LA will host another innovative clinic in the County. However, the demolition of the Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena, home to the free clinics six times over the past seven years, created challenges in acquiring a large enough space in a central geographic location that is accessible via public transportation and provides ample parking to hold a clinic of this magnitude. The search process resulted in a delay in logistics and therefore, Care Harbor – LA for its 2016 rotation will take place on January 20 – 22, 2017 at The Reef, located at 1933 South Broadway, Los Angeles. Wristbands will be distributed on January 14<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00 A.M. at Ted Watkins Park, 1335 East 103rd Street, Los Angeles and on January 15<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00 A.M. at Los Angeles Trade Technical College, 2115 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles. Thereafter, Care Harbor will go back to its fall schedule with another clinic scheduled for the fall of 2017 at The Reef.

The upcoming transition in administration in Washington, D.C. and a shift to make substantial policy changes to the Affordable Care Act and other healthcare programs may result in significant impacts to the current healthcare delivery system in the County. A free health clinic such as Care Harbor – LA is crucial to continue to fill healthcare service gaps for the vulnerable population to provide needed services, including:

**Medical Services**

- Sixty nursing stations for intake triage and forty exam rooms for primary care, cardiology, gynecology, podiatry, orthopedics, ENT and mental health services
- Diagnostic equipment including echocardiogram and EKG
- Immunizations and screenings available to all patients

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
DECEMBER 20, 2016  
PAGE 3**

**Dental Services**

- Eighty dental chairs and an operatory along with two mobile vans, on-site x-ray capability and sterilization stations
- Partial dentures and repairs to existing patient dentures
- Root canals with ceramic crowns milled on site and fitted to patients during visit

**Vision Services**

- Fourteen vision lanes along with three mobile vision vans
- Prescription glasses including single vision, bifocal and extreme corrections

**Preventive and Follow-Up Care**

- Participation of local community clinics for referrals to medical homes
- Dental follow-up care and no-cost and low-cost dental clinics
- Dental - fluoroscopic oral cancer screening; oral hygiene consultation and fluoride varnish treatment
- General - health and wellness resources, exhibits and counselors

With thousands of uninsured individuals under one roof and a large percentage unaware that they qualify for coverage programs, Care Harbor - LA is a unique opportunity to provide patients with coverage opportunities for themselves and their families. Insurance navigators from the County's Department of Public Social Services provided education, counseling and enrollment into various qualifying programs.

Care Harbor - LA continues to receive an unprecedented level of support from the local healthcare community: medical and dental schools, professional societies, hospitals, clinics, provider organizations, suppliers, and thousands of volunteers. The free clinic is also working closely with County departments including the Departments of Health Services, Mental Health, Public Health and Public Social Services. In addition, Care Harbor - LA will once again offer enrollment opportunities to eligible patients in qualifying health coverage programs. Those who will not qualify through Covered California will be provided with an opportunity to link with free or low-cost community clinics for their primary healthcare needs.

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
DECEMBER 20, 2016  
PAGE 4**

The local organizers and healthcare professionals who produced these clinics have formed a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity to bring quality care to the uninsured, underinsured and underserved of the County. Known as Care Harbor (originally called CareNow), the nonprofit was founded with a dual goal: to provide comprehensive free care at large community clinics, and to provide continuing care for patients needing follow-up by arranging medical homes for patients among the community's existing healthcare resources. The new name reflects an expanded mission, making Care Harbor a destination and a portal, a haven of health and hope, and a gateway to sustainable care. Care Harbor - LA clinics will have an enduring impact on the health of the community. This free clinic creates a lasting change in the lives of thousands at a time of great need for the most vulnerable people.

**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

- 1) Proclaim January 20<sup>th</sup> through January 22<sup>nd</sup> as "Care Harbor Week" in Los Angeles County (County) and encourage the residents of the County who are uninsured or underinsured and in need of medical, dental or vision care to take part in this event, offered at no cost to the participants;
- 2) Encourage County departments to participate in the event to the extent that doing so is consistent with their mission and budgetary constraints, to include allowing employees to work at the event on County time with the authorization of their immediate supervisor and administration; and
- 3) Allow County departments to utilize County vehicles at the event as needed for treatment or educational purposes.

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**(SM/YV)**