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June 18, 2019

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVE THE TEMPORARY REINSTATEMENT OF A RETIRED COUNTY EMPLOYEE AS A120
DAY TEMPORARY EMPLOYEE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH– EXECUTIVE
OFFICE
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request approval for the return of retiree John W. Senterfitt, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.N., as a 120-day retiree, to provide critical support for the Department of Public Health's Institutional Review Board, prior to the required 180 day wait period following the date of his retirement.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find that, as a result of Dr. Senterfitt's retirement on April 26, 2019, the Department of Public Health (DPH) will have a critical void in leadership of the Institutional Review Board (IRB), resulting in significantly reduced capacity to provide federally-mandated oversight of research activities.
2. Approve the request of the Director of DPH, or designee, to allow Dr. Senterfitt to be reinstated as a 120-day retiree as a part-time Epidemiologist (Item #1759F) effective date of Board approval, at a salary level commensurate with the assignment, for up to 960 total hours of work in a fiscal year.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Under the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA), a person who retires from the County may serve without reinstatement from retirement or loss or interruption of benefits provided by the retirement system before a period of 180 days following the date of retirement, as



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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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CELIA ZAVALA
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long as the Department can certify that it is necessary to fill a critical position and the hiring is approved by the Board of Supervisors in a public meeting. The Department has determined it is necessary to fill this critical position and the recommended action will satisfy these requirements under PEPR.

The DPH IRB serves a federally-mandated function in providing oversight of all public health research conducted by DPH programs or involving DPH clients to ensure that it is methodologically and ethically sound, and that the rights of research participants are fully protected. The IRB provides similar research oversight for the Department of Health Services' (DHS) Division of Ambulatory Care Services and other central programs, and on an as-needed basis for other County departments and non-profit community-based organizations.

Dr. Senterfitt's retirement resulted in a critical void in leadership of the IRB, resulting in significantly reduced capacity to provide federally-mandated oversight of research activities. The Chair of the IRB is a highly specialized position. Dr. Senterfitt has served as the Chair of the IRB for the past 12 years. His timely return as a 120-day retiree will ensure that the IRB continues to provide the required research oversight. In addition, Dr. Senterfitt will oversee and help revise IRB and related DPH ethics policies and procedures necessitated by major changes to federal regulations in 2019 and 2020, as well as oversee the switch from a paper-based to an electronic application submission, review, and tracking system. During this time Dr. Senterfitt will mentor a newly hired staff member functioning as the IRB Vice Chair and administrator to transition duties related to the IRB.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions support Strategy III.3. Pursue Operational Effectiveness, Fiscal Responsibility and Accountability, of the County's Strategic Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The cost of the recommend actions will be absorbed within DPH's existing budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The recommended actions are in conformance with PEPR.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Implementation of these recommendations will ensure that DPH is able to continue to provide federally-mandated oversight of research activities across the Department.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Ferrer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Barbara" and last name "Ferrer" clearly distinguishable.

Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd

Director

BF:lc

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Department of Human Resources
LACERA