



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel

At its meeting held December 13, 2005, the Board took the following action:

11, 59 and 60

The following items were called up for consideration:

11

Chief Administrative Officer's recommendation to approve introduction of ordinances establishing the Department of Public Health, consisting of the Public Health, Office of AIDS Programs and Policy, Alcohol and Drug Programs Administration, Children's Medical Services, and the Antelope Valley Rehabilitation Centers; create the Office of the Director of Public Health; revise ordinances related to the Department of Health Services as appropriate to reflect the new Department; and approve the following related actions:

Approve the appointment of Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. as the Acting Director of the Department of Public Health;

Instruct the Director of Health Services and the Acting Director of Public Health to develop and execute Memorandum of Understanding necessary to delineate responsibilities and services provided by and for the Departments, and ensure continued and improved coordination of public health activities and personal health services; and

Authorize the Acting Director of Public Health to fill 26 full-time equivalent positions in excess of what is provided for in the Public Health staffing ordinance, as allocated by the Department of Human Resources, in order to address additional administrative support functions resulting from the establishment of the new Department.

(Continued on Page 2)

11, 59 and 60 (Continued)

59

Ordinance for introduction amending the County Code, Title 2 - Administration, Title 8 - Consumer Protection and Business Regulations, Title 10 - Animals, Title 11 - Health and Safety, Title 12 - Environmental Protection, and Title 20 - Utilities, relating to the separation of the public health and health officer functions from the Department of Health Services; creation of the Department of Public Health and the office of the Director of Public Health; and to make technical amendments to Titles 8, 11, 12 and 20 that result from the separation of the Public Health and Health Officer functions from the Department of Health Services.

60

Ordinance for introduction amending the County Code, Title 6 - Salaries, adding and establishing the salary for two employee classifications in the unclassified services and one employee classification in the classified service; adding a new department to Chapter 6.77, Public Health Department; adding and/or changing certain classifications and numbers of ordinance positions in the Department of Health Services - Administration and Department of Health Services - San Fernando Valley cluster; and repealing the Department of Health Services - Office of AIDS Programs and Policy, Alcohol and Drug Programs Administration, Children's Medical Services, and Public Health Services.

Dr. Thomas L. Garthwaite, Director of Health Services, Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding, Director of Public Health, and Dr. John F. Schunhoff, Chief of Operations, Public Health, Department of Health Services, responded to questions posed by the Board. Kathy Ochoa, representative of SEIU Local 660, Nancy Watson, representative of Community Health Councils, Inc., Robert Dowin, representative of Tri-Pace Health and Wellness Advocacy, Dr. Lester Breslow, Dr. Genevieve Clavreul, and Chris Edwards also addressed the Board.

Supervisor Knabe made the following statement:

“Six months ago, based on the Chief Administrative Office’s (CAO) analysis, the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved the concept of moving certain functions now in the Department of Health Services into a separate Department of Public Health.

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11, 59 and 60 (Continued)

“Today, the Board is being asked to set into motion, a series of steps which will formalize the separation by next month and complete final implementation by March. For the reasons the CAO already stated, I continue to support the separation in concept, especially if it can be implemented with no increase in net County cost. But this is a major and complex organizational change involving thousands of employees, hundreds of millions of dollars and programs which protect the health of every man, woman and child in this County. Wisdom therefore requires that we take a little more time to assure, to use my words of six months ago, ‘...that the move is superbly planned and executed so that services are improved, not disrupted.’

“The CAO plan before us today includes the elements the Board needs to proceed, with one major exception. The proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Directors of Health Services, Public Health, and Mental Health will not be available for review until January 19, 2006.

“The MOU is not just important, it is essential. It is the MOU that will help ensure that after the separation, the directors and management of Public Health, Health Services, and Mental Health will work closely and constantly together to improve and integrate services. That was the main goal in 1972 when public and personal health were merged. This is why the Board should not proceed without the MOU having the benefit of thorough and thoughtful review and comment.

“I believe that in addition to the affected departments, the County’s Public Health Commission, Hospitals and Health Care Delivery Commission, Mental Health Commission and the public should have the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed MOU. In addition, the public should have an opportunity to formally review and comment on the separation plan, especially the MOU before the Board takes final action.

“The goal is not simply to act quickly, it is to act correctly. Doing it this way will take a bit longer and require more work, but it is the right way.”

(Continued on Page 4)

11, 59 and 60 (Continued)

Therefore, Supervisor Knabe made a motion that the Board take the following actions:

1. Accept, for purposes of public review and comment, the planning documents submitted by the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to establish a separate Public Health Department;
2. Set no later than June 30, 2006 as the target date by which the final implementation step (Step 17 in the CAO's attached implementation timeline) will be completed;
3. Instruct the CAO to supplement the planning documents by January 19, 2006 with: a) a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Departments of Health Services, Mental Health and the proposed Department of Public Health that provides for ongoing efforts to improve joint service planning and delivery and resource sharing, and has been reviewed by the Public Health, Hospitals and Health Care Delivery, and Mental Health Commissions; b) recommendations on how to operationalize and manage the MOU so that demonstrable interdepartmental efficiencies and service improvements are regularly achieved; and c) a revised implementation timeline consistent with this motion;
4. Schedule public comment and discussion of the planned separation of Public Health from the Department of Health Services as a set item at 11:00 a.m. on February 7, 2006; and
5. Continue the proposed ordinance changes (Items 59 and 60 on today's agenda) to February 7, 2006.

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Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

“Antelope Valley Rehabilitation Centers (AVRC) provide a unique service to the County of Los Angeles and its comprehensive system of health care. The mission of AVRC is to contribute to the restoration of overall health and functioning of those Los Angeles County residents who suffer from chemical dependency. The AVRC provide low-cost, residential recovery rehabilitation services to alcohol or other drug dependent adult individuals of Los Angeles County on a voluntary basis. The residents served at the Centers require a variety of physical, mental, and social services related to alcohol or other drug abuse dependency.

“The proposed separation between the Department of Health Services and the Department of Public Health will have an impact on the way AVRC provides their services due to change in the administration of this program. The AVRC administration currently reports to Olive View Medical Center, which would remain within the Department of Health Services while the AVRC delivery of alcohol and drug programs would be placed under the administration of the Department of Public Health. In order to ensure a continuum of care, it is necessary to fully address how the AVRC’s administrative change will affect the operations of this vital program.

“Particularly, collaboration between the Department of Health Services and the new Department of Public Health is necessary in maintaining the full variety of health services residents require while receiving treatment at the AVRC. Those receiving substance abuse treatment often require medical care in a hospital setting. It is necessary to ensure that proper collaboration and/or coordination is effectively in place before the separation of the departments is implemented.”

(Continued on Page 6)

11, 59 and 60 (Continued)

Therefore, Supervisor Antonovich made a motion that the Board instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to work in collaboration with the Directors of Health Services and Public Health to:

1. Report back to the Board by February 7, 2006, on developing a comprehensive plan to address the resource and administrative needs of the Antelope Valley Rehabilitation Centers (AVRC) assuming the separation of Public Health from the Department of Health Services occurs; including any possible fiscal impact related to the proposed administrative change; and
2. Provide to the Board by February 7, 2006, a draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Departments of Health Services, Public Health, and Mental Health related to the AVRC.

After discussion, Supervisor Knabe directed County Counsel to evaluate and report back to the Board on the relationship of Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding with the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) to determine whether or not a conflict of interest would exist by maintaining his position with the UCLA Medical School, if he was appointed as the Director of the Department of Public Health.

In addition, Supervisor Antonovich directed County Counsel to include in the report a determination of whether or not a Beilenson Hearing is required prior to the separation of the Public Health functions from the Department of Health Services.

After further discussion, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, duly carried by the following vote: Ayes: Supervisors Burke, Yaroslavsky, Knabe and Antonovich; Noes: Supervisor Molina, the Board took the following actions:

1. Accepted, for purposes of public review and comment, the planning documents submitted by the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to establish a separate Public Health Department;
2. Set no later than June 30, 2006 as the target date by which the final implementation step (Step 17 in the CAO's attached implementation timeline) will be completed;

(Continued on Page 7)

11, 59 and 60 (Continued)

3. Instructed the CAO to supplement the planning documents by January 19, 2006 with: a) a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Departments of Health Services, Mental Health and the proposed Department of Public Health that provides for ongoing efforts to improve joint service planning and delivery and resource sharing, and has been reviewed by the Public Health, Hospitals and Health Care Delivery, and the Mental Health Commissions; b) recommendations on how to operationalize and manage the MOU so that demonstrable interdepartmental efficiencies and service improvements are regularly achieved; and c) a revised implementation timeline consistent with this motion;
4. Scheduled public comment and discussion of the planned separation of Public Health from the Department of Health Services as a set item at 11:00 a.m. on February 7, 2006;
5. Continued the proposed ordinance changes (Item 59 and 60 on today's agenda) to February 7, 2006;
6. Instructed the Chief Administrative Officer to work in collaboration with the Department of Health Services and Public Health, and to report back to the Board by February 7, 2006, on developing a comprehensive plan to address the resource and administrative needs of the Antelope Valley Rehabilitation Centers (AVRC) assuming the separation of Public Health from the Department of Health Services occurs; including any possible fiscal impact related to the proposed administrative change; and to provide the Board by February 7, 2006 a draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Departments of Health Services, Public Health, and Mental Health related to the AVRC; and

(Continued on Page 8)

11, 59 and 60 (Continued)

7. Directed County Counsel to report back to the Board on: a) an evaluation on the relationship of Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding with the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) to determine whether or not a conflict of interest would exist by maintaining his position with the UCLA Medical School, if he was appointed as the Director of the Department of Public Health; and b) a determination of whether or not a Beilenson Hearing is required prior to the separation of the Public Health functions from the Department of Health Services.

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Attachment

Copies distributed:

- Each Supervisor
- Auditor-Controller
- Chief Information Officer
- Director of Health Services
- Director of Internal Services
- Director of Mental Health
- Director of Personnel
- Contact, Public Health Commission
- Contact, Hospitals and Health Care Delivery Commission
- Contact, Mental Health Commission