

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

OCTOBER 7, 2008

SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES GRADING SYSTEM

On November 20, 2007, the Board approved my motion which directed the Chief Executive Officer to work with the Department of Public Health to research the viability of inspecting and posting grades at skilled nursing homes and convalescent homes. The report back to the Board indicated that the County does not have the authority to impose a mandatory grading system for these facilities, as the California Legislature has vested the authority to inspect and regulate these facilities solely with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Although, given these findings, the Chief Executive Office, the Department of Public Health, and my office are exploring options for improving consumer information about skilled nursing and convalescent homes.

Although, state-mandated inspections are frequent, their results and inspections report are not posted on the Department of Public Health website, and therefore the results are seldom noticed by the patients and residents of the nursing homes. Like the restaurant grading system in the County, a facility rating guide for skilled nursing

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Molina	_____
Yaroslavsky	_____
Knabe	_____
Antonovich	_____
Burke	_____

facilities should be graded on their compliance with health regulations and those marks prominently displayed.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Officer:

1. to prepare a five signature letter to the Governor, the California Legislature, and the Director of the State Department of Public Health to support a facility rating guide for skilled nursing facilities and convalescent homes; and
2. and the Department of Public Health to post the results and inspections report on the Department of Public Health website and report back to the Board in 30 days.

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— Rpt back next week —