Health Services
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To improve health through leadership, service and education

December 2, 2008

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

Dear Supervisors:

ADOPTION OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE CLOSURE OF CENTURY CITY DOCTORS HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT (SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS 2 AND 3) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Request adoption of written findings made by the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency's Impact Evaluation Report (IER) of the closure of Century City Doctors Hospital Emergency Department (CEN ED).

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve the IER, which concludes that the closure of CEN ED on August 22, 2008, will have a negative impact upon the community.

2. Instruct the Interim Director of Health Services, or his designee, to forward the IER (Attachment I) to the State Department of Health Services (SDHS) within three days of adoption by your Board as required by the California Health and Safety Code (H&S), Section 1300.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

By approving the recommended actions the Board will validate the EMS Agency IER findings that the closure of CEN ED will have a negative effect upon the community and the Los Angeles County EMS System.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goal

The recommended actions support Goal 3, Organizational Effectiveness of the County's Strategic Plan. Attachment I accurately reflects the impact upon the affected community, and complies with the notification requirements of the State of California.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There is no direct net County cost associated with the closure of CEN ED; however, County hospitals could be indirectly impacted if patients previously seen at CEN ED seek medical care at those facilities.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

On August 22, 2008, CEN ED notified the SDHS, Health Facilities Division (HFD), of the closure of their emergency department that same day at 8:00 P.M. Administrators cited financial reasons as the basis for the closure and stated that the hospital had filed a Voluntary Petition for protection under Chapter 7 of the Federal Bankruptcy Code.

The EMS Agency was informed of the impending closure by HFD, and immediately instructed paramedic provider agencies to begin diverting 9-1-1 traffic away from CEN ED. All base hospitals and 9-1-1 receiving hospitals affected by the closure were notified of the change.

California Health and Safety (H&S) Code Section 1255.1 requires hospitals to provide at least 90 days advance notice of any planned reduction or elimination of emergency medical services to the SDHS, the County, and healthcare service plans or other third party payers under contract with the hospital. Public notice must also be provided, in a manner that is likely to reach a significant number of residents served by the hospital, at least 90 days in advance of the projected closure date. However, a hospital is not subject to this requirement if the SDHS determines that the use of resources to keep the ED open substantially threatens the stability of the hospital. As such, SDHS authorized the closure of CEN ED because of its financial insolvency.

The EMS Agency has contacted the hospitals immediately surrounding Century City Doctors Hospital to determine the impact of the closure on their EDs. Olympia Medical Center, Cedars Sinai Medical Center, and UCLA Medical Center, while recognizing that any loss of capacity in the system is problematic, do not report an increased patient load directly attributable to the CEN ED closure. These three hospitals agree that it is still too soon after the closure to obtain definitive numbers to determine the net impact. However, the surrounding EDs, two of which already have a patient census that exceeds the established standard of 1800 patient visits per treatment bay, will experience an increased number of patients.

In addition to providing timely notice to stakeholders and the public so alternate arrangements for care can be made, the advance notice period is designed to allow sufficient time for an IER to be prepared and a public hearing to be held with the hearing information to be incorporated into the IER. Section 1300 of the California Health and Safety code provides that this information be submitted for consideration

by the State regulatory authorities in approving the closure of the ER. Because of the lack of advance notice by CEN ED, the hearing and IER requirements do not apply. Nevertheless, an IER has been prepared by EMS Agency to assist in planning purposes.

The Cities of Los Angeles and Beverly Hills Fire Departments, the two paramedic providers most affected by the loss of CEN ED, report that the closure may negatively impact their prehospital care operations by increasing transport times to alternate EDs and delaying EMS personnel as they wait to transfer patient care to staff at more distant hospitals.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

Not applicable.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The closure of CEN ED will have a negative impact on the community and the Los Angeles County EMS System.

CONCLUSION

When approved, DHS requires three signed copies of the Board's action.

Respectfully submitted,

John F. Schunhoff, Ph.D.
Interim Director

JFS:rg

Attachment

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Director, Emergency Medical Services
Emergency Medical Services Commission

Century City BL

IMPACT EVALUATION REPORT
On the Closure of Century City Doctors Hospital

I. PURPOSE OF IMPACT EVALUATION

On August 22, 2008, Salus Surgical Group notified the Department of Health Services (DHS), Health Facilities Inspection Division, the Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services Agency, and others of their intent to close the emergency department at Century City Doctors Hospital (CEN) located at 2070 Century Park East, Los Angeles. The ED was scheduled for closure on August 22, 2008 at 8:00 P.M and the hospital itself would close on August 29, 2008. The hospital had filed a voluntary petition for debt protection under Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code and requested that its acute care license be placed in suspense. The purpose of this report is to assess the impact of the closure of CEN upon the community, including the impact on access to emergency care, the impact on services provided by surrounding hospitals, and the impact on services provided by public and private prehospital emergency medical services (EMS) provider agencies.

The hospital, previously known as Century City Hospital, was closed after its sale to the Salus Surgical Group in 2004. It re-opened in 2006 as Century City Doctors Hospital with 176 beds, 20 licensed critical care (ICU/CCU) beds and 8 ED treatment bays.

Following adoption by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the Impact Evaluation Report (IER) will be submitted to the State of California Department of Health Services, in accordance with provisions of the Health and Safety Code (H&SC) Section 1300.

II. SCOPE OF IMPACT EVALUATION

The required scope of the IER is set forth in H&SC 1300. The impact evaluation will consider:

1. Impact of the CEN closure on surrounding hospitals, including specialty and disaster services.

2. Impact of the CEN closure on prehospital EMS provider agencies, including public and private providers.

3. The impact of CEN's closure on the surrounding community.

III. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

1. There are a total of ten acute care facilities within ten miles of CEN. Of these ten facilities, six are within five miles.

2. CEN Emergency Department treated 9,167 patients in 2007, or approximately 25 patients/day. This includes 1,893 transported by the 9-1-1 system.

3. From an emergency medical services perspective, the closure of CEN will impact the residents of Century City, Beverly Hills, Cheviot Hills, Westwood and West Los Angeles. EMS provider agencies that will be impacted include the Beverly Hills and Los Angeles Fire Departments, both of which report longer transport times to

alternate facilities and increased delay of prehospital personnel as they wait for transfer of patient care to hospital staff. These impacts will include:

a. Longer travel times to reach emergency services. CEN currently receives 4% of the total number of patients transported by public and private provider agencies within the 10 mile radius. Beverly Hills Fire Department transports 19% of CEN's 9-1-1 volume and the Los Angeles Fire Department transports 77% of CEN's 9-1-1 volume.

b. Possible delays in obtaining prehospital emergency services as a result of longer out-of-service times for prehospital EMS personnel engaged in patient transports to more distant hospitals.

c. Loss of geographic availability of basic emergency department services for residents of Century City, Beverly Hills, Cheviot Hills, Westwood and West Los Angeles.

d. Loss of a community resource for disaster purposes.

e. Loss of 20 critical care beds.

f. Increased requests from remaining hospitals to divert 9-1-1 ambulances due to an inability to move greater numbers of patients through their emergency departments.

g. Possible increased utilization of 9-1-1 by citizens who currently walk or drive to CEN.

4. The combined total number of emergency treatment stations in the 10 mile radius is 242 beds (does not include urgent care beds). The closure of CEN would reduce the number to 234 treatment stations.

5. Hospital emergency visits to facilities within the 10 mile radius were 400,306 patients for 2007. This equals 1,654 patients per treatment station. The closure of CEN would result in a ratio of 1,711 patients per treatment station (assuming patients currently seen at CEN would seek emergency care at one of the hospitals within the 10 mile radius).

6. Data on emergency treatment stations is contingent upon all hospitals within the 10 mile radius continuing to operate emergency services.

7. Patients with non-life-threatening illness or injury will most likely experience longer waiting times in the emergency departments of surrounding hospitals due to the closure of CEN.

8. CEN is not an Emergency Department Approved for Pediatrics (EDAP) so prehospital care providers were directed to other facilities if their patient was age 14 or younger. The only children evaluated and cared for in the CEN ED would have been walk-ins. There will be no impact to children in terms of 9-1-1 transports.

9. CEN is not a designated trauma center. There will be no impact on patients that meet trauma center criteria or guidelines.

10. CEN is not a ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) Receiving Center. There will be no impact to 9-1-1 patients experiencing a STEMI.

11. CEN, as one of the hospitals under the UCLA/Cedars Sinai Disaster Resource Center umbrella, had decontamination capabilities and personal protective equipment.

V. CONCLUSION

Based on the above findings, the Los Angeles County EMS Agency concludes that the closure of the emergency department and acute care beds at CEN will have a negative impact on access to, and delivery of, emergency medical services in Century City and the surrounding communities.