Health Services
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

March 6, 2009

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

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TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: John F. Schunhoff, Ph.D.
Interim Director

SUBJECT: **STATUS REPORT ON KEY INDICATORS OF PROGRESS, HOSPITAL OPERATIONS, AND OTHER ISSUES RELATED TO THE TRANSITION TO THE NEW LAC+USC MEDICAL CENTER – PROGRESS REPORT #7 (Agenda Item #S-1, March 10, 2009)**

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To improve health through leadership, service and education.

This is to provide your Board with the bi-monthly report on the status of transitioning to the new LAC+USC Medical Center (LAC+USC). This report is not a full monthly report but an interim operational report and includes additional information in response to questions posed by your Board at the meeting held February 24, 2009.

Census Trending (ADC includes Psychiatric & Newborn Patients)

The Average Daily Census (ADC) for the month of February 2009 was 563 out of 671 licensed beds, an estimated 82% utilization rate (84% occupancy). This is an increase from an ADC of 551 for January 2009. The census for Medical/Surgical units remained the same as the prior month with an estimated 93% utilization rate (95% occupancy) for February 2009.

Emergency Department and Admission Volume Trending

Attachment 1 demonstrates the trending of ED registration volumes, admissions from the ED, and total hospitals admission. For February, the ED Volume and Total Admissions were down slightly which can be attributed to the shorter numbers of days in February. Overall, census has increased and admission volume from the ED was stable.

Attachment 2 is the ADC Specialty Bed census for February 2009. Most of the services are showing a continual trend upwards with the exception of the Burn Unit. It is expected that there will be normal fluctuations in census for all of these specialty areas over time.

Diversion Data

ED saturation diversion averaged 52% for the month of February 2009 which is a slight decrease from the month of January 2008 which was 58%.

Additional Information Requested

On February 24, 2009, DHS and the Chief Executive Office were instructed by Supervisor Molina to report back on any impacts the hours of operation for

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the Urgent Access Diagnostic Center (UADC) may have on the Left Without Being Seen (LWBS) patients. The following is a review of the UADC status, plans for expansion and correlation analysis:

Urgent Access Diagnostic Center (UADC)

The UADC operates Monday - Friday, 8am - 8pm and Saturday, 9am - 5:30pm, utilizing nine treatment rooms. The approximate square footage is 7,425 square feet which includes the waiting room, nursing stations and work areas.

An average of 85 patients are currently seen on a daily basis; 33 slots/day come from ED referrals as next day appointments. LAC+USC is planning to expand the 33 ED slots to 43 slots in the near future.

UADC Expansion Plan

LAC+USC has a two-phased plan for expanding the UADC over the next six months. Phase One of the UADC expansion will increase the Saturday hours from 8am - 8pm with an implementation date in approximately two weeks, pending final staffing arrangements.

Phase Two of the UADC expansion will increase the total treatment rooms to 18 by renovating additional space and adding 2, 225 square feet. Beginning July 2009, LAC+USC management will start minor remodeling and renovation including, but not limited to, refinishing benches, front counter extension, patchwork, painting, and floor refinishing. These are estimated to take 60 days with plans to finalize the expansion in September 2009.

After completion of both phases, it is estimated that the current number of patient visits will double.

Correlation Between UADC Hours and ED LWBS

LAC+USC management has evaluated the possible correlation between the UADC hours and ED LWBS patients. Although there was a 6% increase in patients LWBS in January 2009, there appears to be no relationship between the UADC hours of operation and the patients leaving. In fact, the largest numbers of patients that leave the facility are at 5am and 5pm. Additional analysis of chief complaints is being conducted; however, all patients are low acuity. The Department will continue to trend and follow these indicators and apprise the Board of further findings.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or Carol Meyer, Interim Chief Network Officer at (213) 240-8370.

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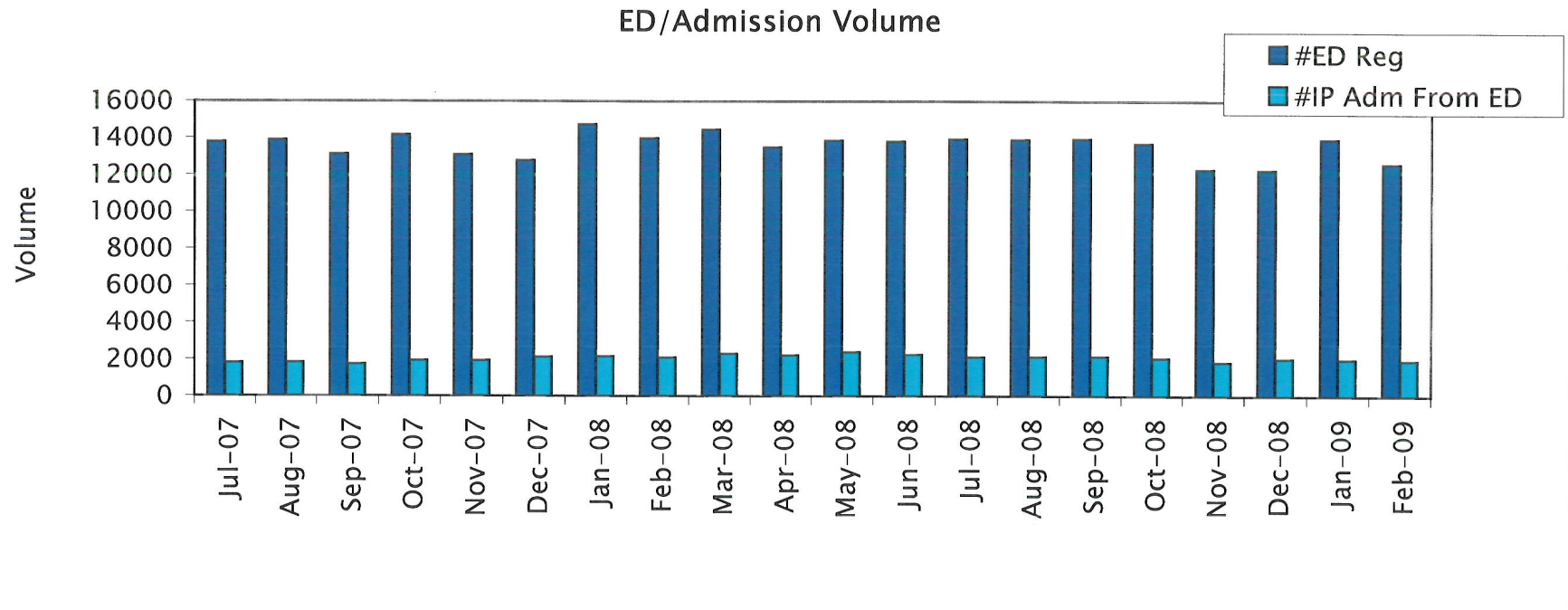
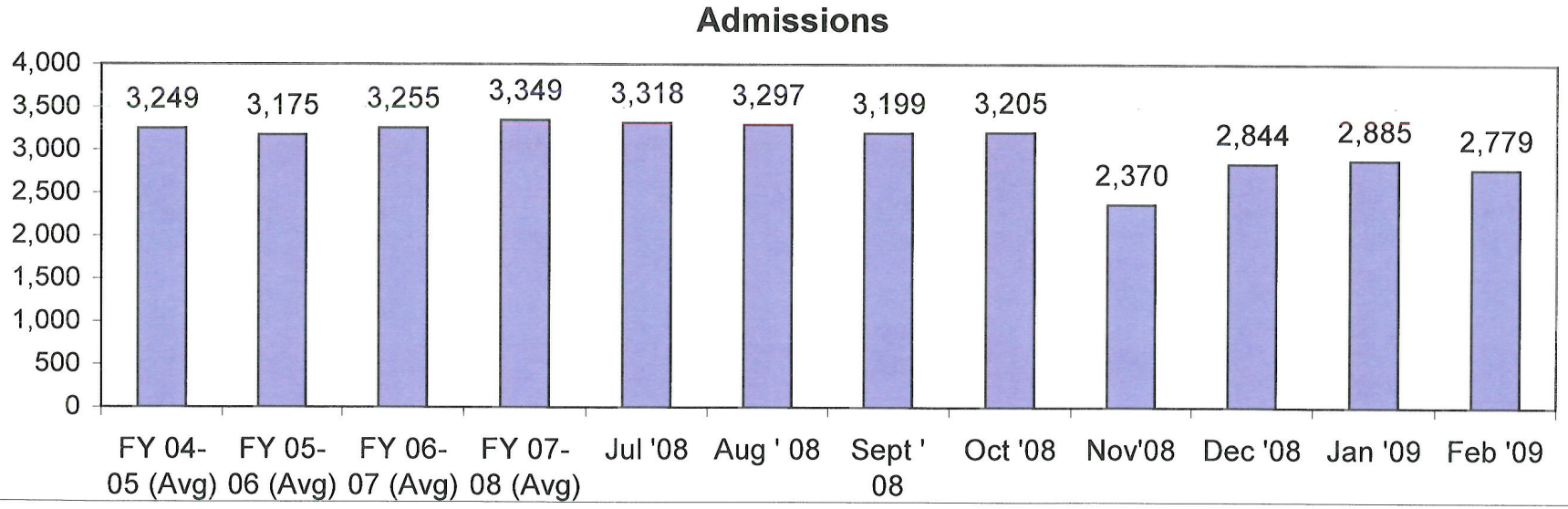
Attachments

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

LAC+USC Medical Center
Workload Summary



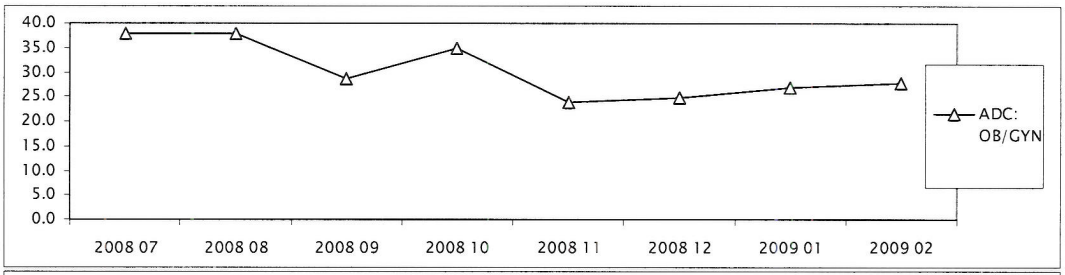
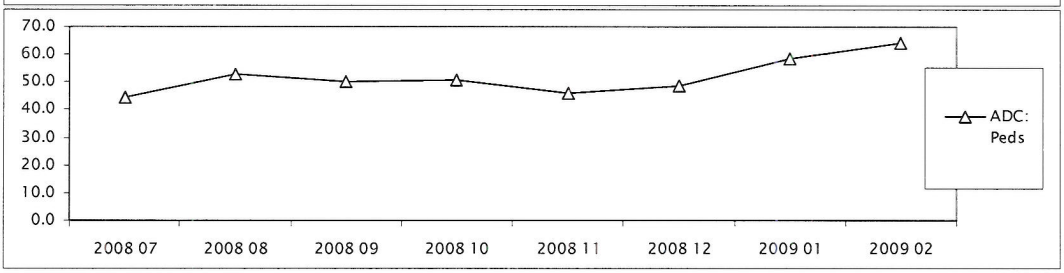
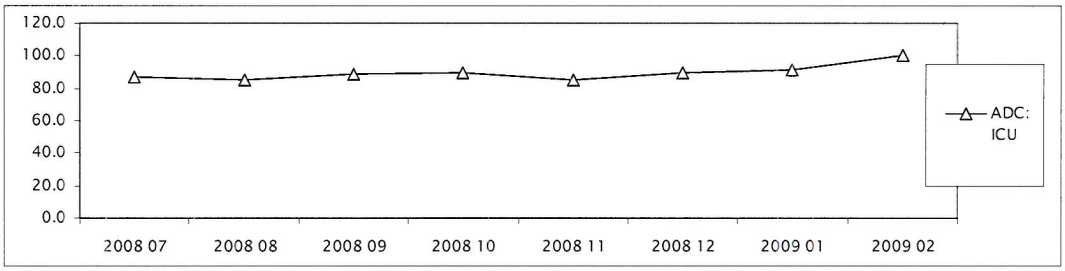
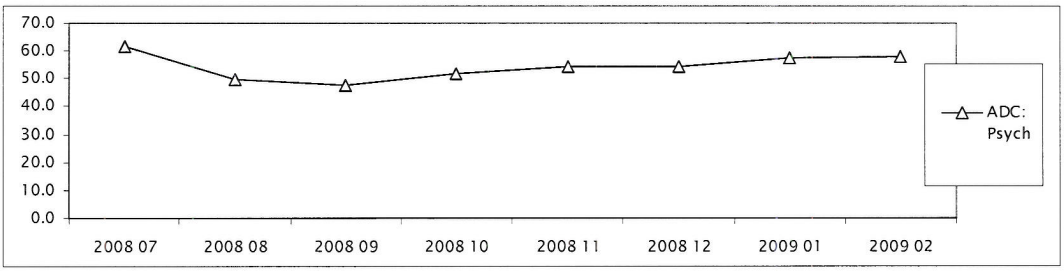
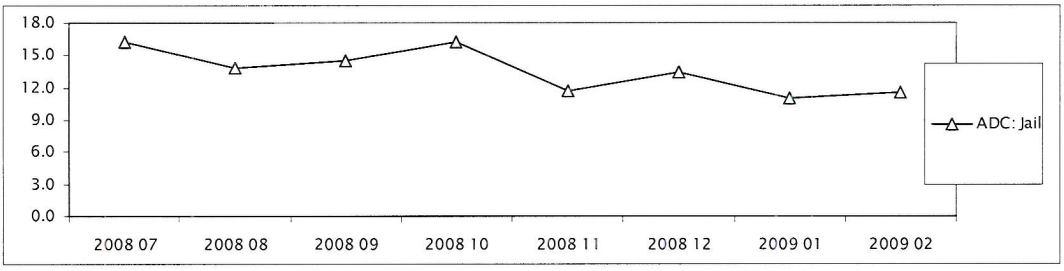
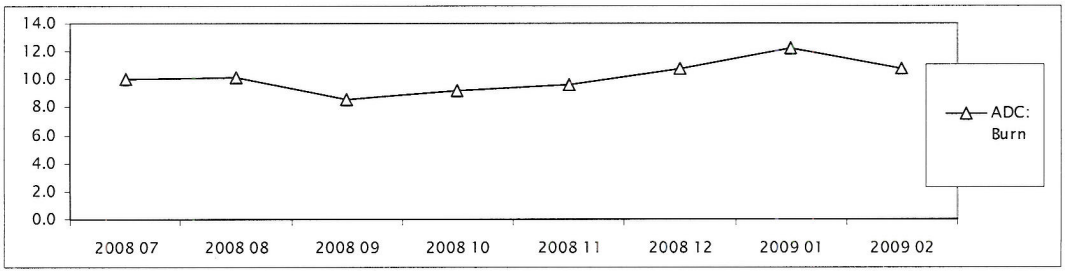


Attachment 1

Data Source: Affinity QuadraMed System

3/5/2009

LAC+USC Healthcare Network

Average Daily Census by Nursing Unit Subset, Jul-2008 to Feb-2009

based on Affinity Nursing Unit Statistical Reports