

REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

APRIL 7, 2009

Creation of a Countywide Health Information Technology Demonstration Project

There is a serious need to improve healthcare services in the County of Los Angeles and, in particular, in South Los Angeles (South LA). Numerous studies have documented higher levels of disease burden, health care demand and difficulties in accessing care in South Los Angeles. The closure of the Martin Luther King Jr. Hospital (MLK) resulted in increased emergency and inpatient services at surrounding County operated and private hospitals. South LA is also experiencing a critical shortage of medical providers. Los Angeles County, for example, has 57 pediatricians for every 100,000 children. But in South LA, there are only about 11 pediatricians for every 100,000 children.

Health information technology (HIT) could address some of this disease burden if it is strategically deployed. HIT can help the County and South LA regional medical community ensure patients get the quality care that they need, when they need it, how they need it, without duplication of unnecessary tests and without unnecessary costs. However, more needs to be done to include private providers who are not part of the County's network in developing a HIT initiative. A HIT initiative ~~in South Los Angeles~~ is especially timely as the County works to create a new publicly-funded private hospital to replace MLK. To be successful, this new hospital must be linked into a strongly coordinated system of regional public and private health care. In addition, the County's HIT initiative should include both a full-featured electronic medical records system and a fully integrated disease management protocol.

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MOTION

MOLINA _____

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ANTONOVICH _____

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I, THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Direct the CEO, the Chief Information Office, the Department of Health Services, and other appropriate County departments to conduct a feasibility assessment of creating a countywide Health Information Technology Demonstration Project for the South Los Angeles community. The Demonstration Project should enable a cost effective and secure electronic exchange of patient medical records among relevant public and private health providers. It should also strive to provide:
 - a. computerized analysis of patient data to alert doctors to early signs of disease;
 - b. evidence-based treatment guidelines to assist doctors integrate latest research data into practice with individual patients;
 - c. outcome measurement capacity; and
 - d. appropriate confidentiality protections.
2. Direct the CEO to create a technical advisory group that includes key private and public partners, such as but not limited to, USC, and UCLA, Cal Tech, Loyola Marymount University, Claremont McKenna College and Azusa Pacific University, and representatives from the Long Beach Network for Health, Performigence, National Integrated Health Network Coalition and Health-E-LA.
3. Direct the CEO to report back to our Board in 60 days with a description of the proposed HIT initiative, cost estimate, proposed technical advisory group members, proposed source of public and private funds (including federal economic stimulus funds) and implementation schedule.

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