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DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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November 25, 2015

TO: Audit Committee

FROM: John Naimo 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **SUNSET REVIEW FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOSPITALS
AND HEALTH CARE DELIVERY COMMISSION**

RECOMMENDATION

The Audit Committee recommend to the Board of Supervisors (Board) to extend the Los Angeles County Hospitals and Health Care Delivery Commission's (Commission) sunset review date to July 1, 2019.

BACKGROUND

The Board established and has continued the Commission pursuant to Los Angeles County Code Chapter 3.32. The Board approved the most recent sunset review date extension on January 17, 2012.

The Commission consults with, advises, and makes recommendations to the Board and the Director of the Department of Health Services (DHS) on patient care policies and programs of the County's hospital system, including:

- The need for additional hospitals and/or other patient care facilities.
- The relationship between County hospitals and other public or private health care facilities.
- Hospital staffing issues.
- The utilization of County hospital facilities.

The Commission also acts as a liaison between the Board, the Director of DHS, and the public in matters relating to the County's hospital system.

The Commission is comprised of 15 members, three appointed by each Supervisor. The Commission must meet at least eight times per year, and members receive \$25 per meeting and facility site inspection attended, not to exceed two meetings and/or site inspections per month.

JUSTIFICATION

From January 2012 through June 2015, the Commission met 35 times (approximately ten times a year), with an average meeting attendance of 7.3 (49%) members. The Commission receives staff support from DHS' Policy and Government Relations, and does not have a separate budget. During our review period, the Commissioners waived their stipends. DHS estimates that they incur approximately \$5,700 in expenses annually for staff support.

Although the Commission's average attendance was low, the Commission successfully fulfilled its duties. During this review period, the Commission's accomplishments included:

- Issuing a White Paper on Los Angeles County's health care system which evaluated DHS' ambulatory care system (ACS). The Commission presented the Board and Director of DHS with recommendations on ACS, and gave comments on the County's opportunity to meet the community's needs under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). The recommendations and comments addressed improvements to ACS' access system, workforce, infrastructure, and system governance.
- Presenting their position on the proposed creation of a consolidated health agency encompassing DHS, the Department of Public Health, and the Department of Mental Health to the Chief Executive Officer and Director of DHS. The Commission recommended that reductions in redundancies among similar programs, and opportunities for data sharing, could be achieved without the need for consolidation of the three departments.
- Conducting more than 20 site visits of County hospitals, comprehensive health centers, and community partner clinics. During the site visits, Commissioners met with each facility's management to discuss operational concerns, toured the facilities, and reported their observations to the Board and/or Director of DHS.
- Creating sub-committees so the Commission could focus on areas such as community care, veterans' health, and specialty care. These sub-committees/focus groups enable the Commission to utilize the knowledge and expertise of their members to evaluate new areas and provide more comprehensive facility inspection coverage.

The Commission's objectives for the coming period are to:

- Continue its emphasis on focus areas such as community care, health policies, veterans' health, and PPACA implementation.
- Continue to conduct site visits of County hospitals, comprehensive health centers, and community partner clinics.

If you have any questions, please call me, or your staff may contact Robert Smythe at (213) 253-0100.

JN:AB:PH:RS:JU

Attachment

c: Mitchell H. Katz, M.D., Director, Department of Health Services
Gerardo Pinedo, Government Relations Director, Department of Health Services
Stacy Rummel Bratcher, Chair, Hospitals and Health Care Delivery Commission
Twila P. Kerr, Chief, Commission Services

COMMISSION SUNSET REVIEW
LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE DELIVERY
COMMISSION
REVIEW COMMENTS

Mission. Does the mission statement agree with the Board of Supervisors' (Board) purpose and expectations?

The stated mission generally agrees with the Los Angeles County Hospitals and Health Care Delivery Commission's (Commission) duties specified in the County Code. **CONCUR.**

Section 1. Relevance. Is the mission still relevant and in agreement with the Board's purpose and expectations?

The Commission consults and advises the Board and Director of the Department of Health Services (DHS) on patient care policies and programs of the County's hospital system.

The Commission's mission appears to be **RELEVANT.**

Section 2. Meetings and Attendance. Are required meetings held and is attendance satisfactory?

The Commission must meet at least eight times per year. From January 2012 through June 2015, the Commission met 35 times (approximately ten times a year), with an average meeting attendance of 7.3 (49%) members.

Although the Commission's meeting frequency is **SATISFACTORY**, the Commission's attendance is **UNSATISFACTORY**. The Commission recognizes its low average meeting attendance, and is actively working to improve attendance by sending meeting notices to members, reminding them of the importance of attending meetings, and working with the Board offices to fill vacancies. The Commission successfully fulfilled its duties despite low average meeting attendance.

Sections 3 and 4. Accomplishments and Results. Are listed accomplishments and results significant?

During this review period, the Commission's accomplishments included:

- Issuing a White Paper on Los Angeles County's health care system which evaluated DHS' ambulatory care system (ACS). The Commission presented the Board and Director of DHS with recommendations on ACS, and gave comments on the County's opportunity to meet the community's needs under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). The

recommendations and comments addressed improvements to ACS' access system, workforce, infrastructure, and system governance.

- Presenting their position on the proposed creation of a consolidated health agency encompassing DHS, the Department of Public Health, and the Department of Mental Health to the Chief Executive Officer and Director of DHS. The Commission recommended that reductions in redundancies among similar programs, and opportunities for data sharing, could be achieved without the need for consolidation of the three departments.
- Conducting more than 20 site visits of County hospitals, comprehensive health centers, and community partner clinics. During the site visits, Commissioners met with each facility's management to discuss operational concerns, toured the facilities, and reported their observations to the Board and/or Director of DHS.
- Creating sub-committees so the Commission could focus on areas such as community care, veterans' health, and specialty care. These sub-committees/focus groups enable the Commission to utilize the knowledge and expertise of their members to evaluate new areas and provide more comprehensive facility inspection coverage.

The Commission's accomplishments and results are **SIGNIFICANT**.

Section 5. Objectives. Are the objectives compatible with the mission and goals and relevant within the current County environment?

The Commission's objectives for the coming period are to:

- Continue its emphasis on focus areas such as community care, health policies, veterans' health, and PPACA implementation.
- Continue to conduct site visits of County hospitals, comprehensive health centers, and community partner clinics.

The Commission's future objectives appear **RELEVANT**.

Section 6. Resources. Are the resources utilized by the entity in support of the entity's activities warranted in terms of the accomplishments and results?

Commission members receive \$25 per meeting and facility site inspection attended, not to exceed two meetings and/or site inspections per month. The Commission receives staff support from DHS' Policy and Government Relations, and does not have a separate budget. During our review period, the Commissioners waived their stipends. DHS estimates that they incur approximately \$5,700 in expenses annually for staff support.

The Commission's expenses appear to be WARRANTED.

Section 7. Recommendation.

EXTEND THE SUNSET REVIEW DATE FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE DELIVERY COMMISSION TO JULY 1, 2019.