

Relates to Agenda Item # 15

Reducing Disparities in Trauma Care in the County of Los Angeles

Two recently released reports, one conducted by the Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services Agency and another by the University of Southern California, provide important insights on trauma care in the County of Los Angeles (County). Thanks to the efforts of the County's emergency medical services team, as well as the system of trauma centers throughout the County, those who experience a trauma event in the County fare substantially better, on average, than those who experience trauma elsewhere in the nation.

But both reports also confirm substantial disparities in both trauma rates and mortality throughout the County. For example, trauma rates in Service Planning Area (SPA) 6 (South Los Angeles) are more than double the County average. As a result, trauma deaths are also substantially higher in SPA 6. Residents of SPA 1 (Antelope Valley) and SPA 4 (Metro) also experience disproportionately high rates of trauma, but not as pronounced as the data reflects in SPA 6 (South Los Angeles).

There are currently fourteen trauma centers throughout the County, five of which are level I centers – the highest level – and the rest are level II centers. The current level I centers are located at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, Cedars Sinai Medical Center, LAC+USC Medical Center, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, and Harbor UCLA Medical Center. There is no level I trauma center in SPA 6, which is noteworthy in light of the new

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**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
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reports demonstrating that SPA 6 has the highest trauma rate in the County. Level I trauma center designation can offer benefits to both the hospital and broader community through support for academic research, teaching and mentoring of new physicians.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the Director of the Department of Health Services, in coordination with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and County Counsel, to report back in 60 days on a plan that:

- 1) Develops and implements a trauma prevention initiative in regions of the County that experience a disproportionately high incidence of trauma. This proposal should specify what resources are needed and how the initiative should be structured so as to impact the incidence of trauma in these "hot spot" areas. This proposal should be developed separately from the Department of Health Services' efforts to develop a new funding methodology for the non-County trauma care centers. The proposal should be presented to the Board of Supervisors in writing for ratification and resource appropriation.
- 2) Develops a level I trauma center to serve the SPA 6 region, either by upgrading an existing level II facility to become a level I facility, or by proposing a new level I trauma center in the region. Among other things, the plan should outline what resources are needed, the technical assistance that will be provided and the timeline by which it would be feasible to establish a level I trauma center serving SPA 6.
- 3) Trains emergency medical staff in SPA 6 to better manage trauma until a level I trauma facility has been established in the region.

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(YV/MH)