

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD
HELD IN ROOM 648 OF THE KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION,
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
ON
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2008, AT 8:00 AM

Present: Maria M. Oms, Rocky Armfield and John Krattli

**The following items were presented to the Claims Board for consideration
and the Claims Board took actions as indicated in bold.**

1. Call to Order.
2. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Claims Board on items of interest within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Claims Board.

No members of the public addressed the Claims Board.

3. Closed Session – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9).
 - a. Cherylle Cuozzo, et al. v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. PC 032 929

This medical negligence lawsuit arises from treatment received by a patient while hospitalized at Olive View Medical

Action Taken:

This matter was continued to the next Claims Board meeting.

Absent: None

Vote: Unanimously carried

[See Supporting Documents](#)

- b. Belinda Mendez
Claim No. 07-2693

This claim concerns allegations of sexual assault by a Sheriff's Department employee of a female inmate incarcerated at the Century Regional Detention Facility.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$40,000.

Absent: None

Vote: Unanimously carried

- c. Michael Kraut v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 364 168

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the District Attorney's Office was subjected to discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

Action Taken:

This matter was continued to the next Claims Board meeting.

Absent: None

Vote: Unanimously carried

4. Report of actions taken in Closed Session.

The Claims Board reconvened in open session and reported the actions taken in closed session as indicated under Agenda Item No. 3 above.

5. Adjournment.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Cherylle Cuozzo, et al v. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	PC 032929
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court North Valley District
DATE FILED	June 27, 2003
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Health Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$335,000.00
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Steven G. Cohn, Esq.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Narbeh Bagdasarian
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a medical malpractice case brought by Cherylle Cuozzo, Jennifer Cuozzo and Amanda Cuozzo, the surviving family of Ernest Cuozzo, who died on April 2, 2002, at Olive View Medical Center ("OVMC").</p> <p>On March 31, 2002, Ernest Cuozzo, a 51-year-old male, presented to the Emergency Department at OVMC. The staff evaluated the patient and discovered that he was suffering from an increased number of red blood cells.</p>

Appropriate therapeutic measures were undertaken to lower the patient's red blood cell count.

On the following day, the patient's condition deteriorated as he suffered an arrest. Although the patient was resuscitated, his condition worsened, and he died on April 2, 2002. An autopsy was performed, which identified the cause of death as lung infection with increased red blood cells as a major contributing factor.

Mr. Cuozzo's surviving family brought a lawsuit against the County of Los Angeles, contending that the OVMC failed to provide the patient with the necessary treatments.

Although the County asserts that proper care was provided to Mr. Cuozzo, considering the risks involved in a jury trial, however, the Department of Health Services agreed to propose a settlement of this case in the amount of \$335,000.00.

PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$75,639
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$23,194



Summary Corrective Action Plan

Date of incident/event:	April 2, 2002
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	Ernest Cuozzo presented to the Emergency Department at Olive View/UCLA Medial Center on March 31, 2002, with chest congestion, a productive cough, diarrhea and weakness. Laboratory studies were consistent with an overproduction of red blood cells that did not improve with the administration of fluids, however he died of infection.

1. Briefly describe the root cause of the claim/lawsuit:

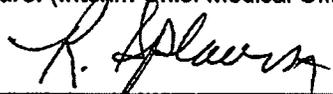
- Failure to timely diagnose and treat infectious condition/sepsis.

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:
(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

- Several policies were reviewed and some were revised.
- 2005: DHS-wide Surviving Sepsis Campaign developed to improve management, diagnosis and treatment of septic patients
- 7/06 through 11/07: System-wide education provided for Surviving Sepsis Campaign including this facility.

3. State if the corrective actions are applicable to only your department or other County departments:
(If unsure, please contact the Chief Executive Office Risk Management Branch for assistance)

- Potentially has County-wide implications.
- Potentially has implications to other departments (i.e., all human services, all safety departments, or one or more other departments).
- Does not appear to have County-wide or other department implications.

Signature: (Risk Management Coordinator) 	Date: 8/11/08
Signature: (Interim Chief Medical Officer) 	Date: 8/11/08
Signature: (Interim Director) 	Date: 8-11-08