

October 13, 2016

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To ensure access to high-quality, patient-centered, cost-effective health care to Los Angeles County residents through direct services at DHS facilities and through collaboration with community and university partners.



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TO: DHS Executive Staff

FROM: Christina R. Ghaly, MD
Chief Operations Officer



SUBJECT: NOMINATION OF VIVIAN BRANCHICK AS PROVOST, DHS COLLEGE OF NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH

It is with great pleasure that I announce that Ms. Vivian Branchick is being nominated for approval by the Board of Trustees to take on a new role within DHS as the Provost for DHS' College of Nursing and Allied Health (CONAH). Given the pending retirement of Ms. Barbara Collier, the current Dean of the School of Nursing and CONAH's Interim Provost, Ms. Branchick will be transitioning to CONAH full-time effective November 1st. I am confident Ms. Branchick's experience in nursing leadership at the highest levels of the public and private sector and her longstanding commitment to nursing education will be a major asset to CONAH.

This is a critical time for our nursing school: the profession of nursing is continually evolving, with nurses increasingly serving as key members of the clinical care team across a range of outpatient and inpatient settings, including roles in direct care delivery, case management, and population health. Given DHS' own ongoing transformation, there are significant opportunities for CONAH and the DHS delivery system to work together in a way that is mutually beneficial. With the goal of achieving magnet designation for our hospitals, we must also evaluate whether CONAH should remain as an associate degree program or move towards a bachelor's degree program. The future leader of CONAH must also work on seeking grant funding opportunities as well as forging new partnerships and alliances.

While the CONAH Provost has historically reported organizationally within DHS to the DHS CNO, given the new focus of the role in re-envisioning CONAH as a key component of the DHS system, we are elevating the Provost within the organization such that it will report directly to me.

Given Ms. Branchick's transition to CONAH, effective November 1st the following individuals will serve as the points of contact for specific nursing office functions:

- Ms. Grace Ibanez: Issues related to nurse staffing (nurse recruitment, retention, hiring, and registry use), nurse compensation issues (e.g., ICU bonus), and nursing IT tools (e.g., Catalyst, Clairvia)
- Ms. Lori Quince: Specialized nursing recruitment programs (e.g., tutoring/mentoring), NP training programs, the nurse advice line, and vendor/contract and contract monitoring functions
- Ms. Karen Wunch: Competency testing
- Ms. Elizabeth Jacobi, Director of Human Resources: Labor issues (e.g., contractual questions)
- Ms. Donna Nagaoka, Director of Performance Improvement: Contract sponsor for Worker Education Resource Center (WERC)
- Mr. Gerardo Pinedo, Director of Government Affairs and Board Relations: Diversity Programs

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Current committee roles filled by Ms. Branchick (e.g., SEIU RN Taskforce, Interdisciplinary Practice, Safe & Just Culture, Compliance, HIT Steering, Drug Diversion, Medication Safety) will be distributed on an interim basis among the existing facility CNOs. Finally, Ms. Branchick will continue for now to be the lead for DHS nurse education, including working with DHS nursing leadership on the curriculum and approach for offering specialized training to DHS nurses (e.g., ER, ICU, OR).

Please congratulate and offer your support to Ms. Branchick in this next phase of her career.

CRG:cg

c: Health Deputies
Chief Executive Officer
Interim Provost, CONAH