

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY – DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES  
HOSPITALS AND HEALTHCARE DELIVERY COMMISSION  
Thursday, February 1, 2024**

<u><b>Commissioners</b></u>	Present	Excused	Absent
David Marshall, D.N.P., Chair	<b>X</b>		
William McCloud, M.H.A., F.A.C.H.E., Vice Chair	<b>X</b>		
Christopher Bui, M.D.	<b>X</b>		
Michael Cousineau, MPH, Ph. D		<b>X</b>	
Dr. Genevieve Clavreul, R.N., Ph.D.	<b>X</b>		
Phillip Kurzner, M.D.		<b>X</b>	
Laura LaCorte, J.D.	<b>X</b>		
Patrick Ogawa	<b>X</b>		
Elisa Nicholas, M.D.	<b>X</b>		
Barbara Siegel, J.D.	<b>X</b>		
Margaret Farwell Smith	<b>X</b>		
Stanly Toy, M.D.			<b>X</b>
Rosemary C. Veniegas, Ph.D.	<b>X</b>		
Tia Delaney-Stewart	<b>X</b>		
<u><b>DHS Staff</b></u>			
Allen Gomez			
Robert Broadbelt			

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:31 by Chair Marshall.

**2. Roll Call**

Allen Gomez, Commission staff, called the roll.

**3. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Marshall welcomed all members of the commission, staff, and guest.

**4. Action Item:**

Approval of Minutes – February 1, 2024

\*\*\* January 2023 minutes were unanimously approved on February 1, 2024\*\*\*

**5. Presentation –**

General discussion with Dr. Christina Ghaly, Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services.

<b>DISCUSSION/FINDINGS</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS, ACTIONS, FOLLOW-UP</b>
Commission Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With patients undergoing redetermination of Medi-Cal and/or transitioning from My Health LA to Medi-Cal, what challenges are you seeing or anticipating especially for those undergoing chronic treatment i.e. chemo, dialysis?</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dr. Ghaly emphasized that the Department of Health Services (DHS) is proactively reaching out to patients, reminding them to renew their Medi-Cal coverage to maintain their benefits. Moreover, DHS is concentrating on transitioning patients from My Health LA to Medi-Cal. This effort includes collaborating closely with community-based organizations to overcome any obstacles in the process.</li> <li>● Please update us on the most impacted specialties in DHS system? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dr. Ghaly noted that Podiatry and Pain Management are the specialties within DHS with the most need and emphasized that there is a pressing need for increased capacity in these areas to better serve patients.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● What is DHS doing for the aging population? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dr. Ghaly noted that DHS is expanding its services for the elderly by increasing its geriatric capacity. This means that during the hiring process for additional primary care staff, DHS is prioritizing candidates who have experience in geriatric care, hold certifications in geriatric medicine, or express a strong interest in focusing on the care of older adults.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Where does DHS recruitment stand? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dr. Ghaly noted that recruiting physicians for DHS has generally not presented any challenges, thanks to competitive salaries offered to medical professionals. Furthermore, the Department of Human Resources (DHR) is looking ahead to make the recruitment process even smoother and more efficient. Plans are in place to introduce Civil Service Reforms, aiming to streamline hiring practices and adapt to the evolving needs of the workforce. These reforms are anticipated to enhance the overall recruitment strategy, ensuring that DHS continues to attract and retain top talent in healthcare.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● What should the Commission focus on this year? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dr. Ghaly noted that the Commission's efforts would be most beneficial if concentrated on workforce issues around Civil Service, as this area holds the greatest potential for positive impact on the DHS.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
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**6. Items for discussion and possible action:**

	DISCUSSION/FINDINGS	RECOMMENDATIONS, ACTIONS, FOLLOW-UP
a. Discussion of Future Commission Site-Visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Commission expressed an interest in visiting East San Gabriel Valley ACN next quarter.</li> </ul>	Receive and File
b. Discussion of MLK Community Hospital Site Visit – November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Currently licensed for 131 beds and has an average daily census of 163. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 4 tents currently in use for the overflow of ER patients.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Receive and File

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Average stay of admitted patient is 36 hours</li> <li>● ED is not part of the state Medicaid supplement.</li> <li>● The funding mechanisms that were initiated when MLK opened made MLK ineligible for the Disproportionate Share Hospital payment program.</li> <li>● MLK has lobbied the State to changes the State Medicaid supplement program which would provide needed funding and improve MLK's financial reserves.</li> <li>● Despite challenges, MLK has a 5-star CMS rating and Grade A on Leapfrog.</li> <li>● MLK representatives requested assistance with LA County regarding:(1) approval of their capital projects; and (2) inclusion of a CPA adjustment relating to MLK's lease agreement. There was a discussion about if and how the commission could assist with these requests.</li> </ul>	
c. Report back on the October 19, 2023, Correctional Services Ad Hoc meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Commissioners noted that the CHS AD Hoc was trying to figure out what happens with the justice involved population as they navigate the services provided in the jail.</li> <li>● They identified that at the inmate reception center, it is the Sheriff's dept who oversees inmate services.</li> <li>● The Sheriff's Department and the Department of Public Social Services can share information on Medi-cal eligibility with each other and allowing access of Medi-Cal for inmates.</li> </ul>	Receive and File
d. Discussion of Hospital Commission 2024 Strategic Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CalAIM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Potentially expand to a global focus on Medi-Cal.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Quality of Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Commissioner LaCorte Volunteered for this section.</li> <li>○ Commissioner Siegal asked about media inquiries regarding the use of restraints.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Workforce <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Commissioner Nicholas leading this section.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Receive and File
e. Discussion on Future Commission Guest Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Commission raised the idea of bringing Dr. Arun Patel to do a deeper dive on the data.</li> </ul>	Receive and File
f. Discussion – Department of Health Services Dashboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Commission expressed interest in meeting with Dr. Giboney to discuss Specialty Care.</li> </ul>	Receive and File

g. Standing Committee on CalAIM		Continued to March
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**7. Items not on the posted agenda for matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency, or where the need to take immediate action came to the attention of the Commission after the posting of the agenda.**

**8. Public Comment**

- Stacy Delgish provided the following public comment via video:
  - I know that you're not taking a position on [Prop 1] and nor is the Mental Health Commission, but how you anticipate it affecting hospitals and healthcare delivery and also to a continuation of how Cal AIM is work rolling out and working.
- Ms. Shelby Eidson provided public comment via email as follows:
  - My comment is submitted for two Agenda items-one, Dr. Ghaly's general discussion, and two, the Hospital Commission's strategic priorities as to Quality of Care.
  - Comment: I am a Patient Advocate who works frequently with psychiatric patients receiving treatment at County hospitals. I am deeply concerned by recent reporting in the Los Angeles Times that shows patients at LA General Hospital are excessively restrained in its psychiatric ward. In fact, LA General restrains patients 50 times more than the national average. Patients there have been restrained for minor issues like spilling juice on the floor or talking too loudly. Some have even died as a result of excessive restraints. What has DHS done to address this failing? How is the department ensuring that people of color, particularly black males, are not being restrained at higher rates than their peers? How soon will the new inpatient psychiatric ward be operational? We must do better to protect our most vulnerable patients--the severely mentally disabled patients who seek acute care at Augustus Hawkins and LA General.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2024.