

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

May 9, 2017

**REPORT BACK ON FEASIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTING A RESIDENCY PROGRAM AT RANCHO LOS AMIGOS NATIONAL REHABILITATION CENTER**

According to the May 9, 2017 Board letter for the "Approval of Amendment to Extend the Inpatient Intensivist and Hospitalist Service Agreement with Primary Critical Care Group" (Board Letter), the Department of Health Services (DHS) is requesting to extend the contract with Primary Critical Care Medical Group (PCCMG), an independent contractor, for the continued physician services at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center (RLANC) for 12 months through May 31, 2018 with up to six month-to-month extension options while DHS implements a new transition plan to attract, retain, and replace physicians at RLANC.

Originally, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, LAC+USC Medical Center and RLANC established an agreement with PCCMG in order to hire contract physicians to provide health care services for the additional patients that may seek care at these neighboring hospitals as a result of the closure of Martin Luther King, Jr. – Harbor Medical Center, Harbor-UCLA and LAC+USC Medical Centers have since been able to hire enough full-time County employees to transition away from the

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contract with PCCMG, but according to the Board Letter, "RLANRC still faces challenges in recruiting, hiring, and retaining qualified physicians since it lacks an internal medicine residency program to perform (Inpatient Intensivist and Hospitalist) services."

While Rancho is currently working on implementing a plan to attract, recruit, and retain replacement physicians at RLANRC, one crucial consideration is that Harbor-UCLA and LAC+USC Medical Centers both have residency programs whereas RLANC does not.

Studies have shown that residency programs in community health care clinics, rural health care centers, and even County hospitals expose young medical professionals to potential career opportunities that focus on low-income populations and community care settings, which in turn has helped with recruitment and retention. Further, potential RLANC residents would receive specialized training focused on a low-income, rehabilitative population, which would help potential residents understand the nuances and benefits of providing care for this population. Therefore, establishing a residency program at RLANC could greatly help with the recruitment and retention of full-time County physicians at RLANC and build a pipeline for physicians in the County system as a whole.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Department of Health Services determine the feasibility of implementing a residency program at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center appropriate for addressing the hospital's physician workforce needs (e.g., internal medicine) and provide their findings in a report back to the Board in 120 days.

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JH:jh