

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HOLLY J. MITCHELL
AND HILDA SOLIS**

August 10, 2021

Participation and Support for the Care Harbor Clinic at The Reef Expo Hall in December 2021

In Los Angeles County (County) there are an estimated 800,000 residents without any health insurance. Approximately 800,000 additional residents have coverage for only part of the year, and many more have limited dental and vision coverage. Access to healthcare by the underserved has become even more difficult during the COVID-19 pandemic with the loss of jobs, income and insurance. The number of persons experiencing homelessness in the County has also increased, adding to the healthcare challenges.

In the past decade, Care Harbor, a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the health and well-being of the underserved population by creating new pathways to accessible, sustainable healthcare services, has organized and conducted eleven free mega-clinics providing medical, dental, vision and preventive care to thousands of our community's most vulnerable and at-risk residents. These events have been some of the largest metropolitan free clinics ever produced. The first was held in 2010 at the Pyramid on the campus of California State University at Long Beach, and the next five were held at the Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena. The last five were held at The Reef in central Los Angeles and at the Fairplex in Pomona.

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Care Harbor clinics help fill a vacuum of care that traditional healthcare system does not fill by offering a range of free health and wellness services under one roof at one time. As of today, the Countywide free clinics have provided 165,000 essential healthcare services to some 30,000 patients. These services are conservatively valued at over \$24M dollars.

The last Care Harbor clinic, held in November, 2019, introduced several new initiatives including a mental health component, expanded health literacy education, and a program for persons experiencing homelessness. One full clinic day was devoted exclusively to these clients, with services and resources tailored to meet their unique needs.

All Care Harbor clinics place the emphasis on sustainable health, with integrative services, preventive care, and follow-up resources for patients who need additional evaluation or treatment. The charity's goal is to create lasting change in the lives of the thousands of residents who attend the free clinics.

In this pandemic era, Care Harbor has redesigned its mega-clinic model with new procedures, support systems, equipment, patient-processing and social distancing to help ensure the safety of all volunteers and clients.

Care Harbor organizers are developing a Care Harbor clinic to be held at The Reef, located at 1933 South Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90007 on December 2, 2021 through December 5, 2021. Clinic setup will take place on November 30th and December 1st and take down will occur on December 6th. This clinic creates a unique opportunity to respond to the growing healthcare challenges faced by the underserved who suffered through this pandemic. More than 80% of clients attending Care Harbor clinics are Latinx or African American – ethnicities who are three to four times more likely to contract the COVID-19 virus. The free clinic can provide them with the essential healthcare services, educate and motivate them to adopt preventive measures, and dispense COVID-19 vaccinations.

The clinic will provide integrative healthcare services including:

Medical Care

- Primary and specialty care exams including cardiology, gynecology, podiatry dermatology, ENT, mental health services and others;

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- Diagnostic equipment including echocardiogram, ultrasound, EKG and A1C; and
- Immunizations and screenings, including mammograms and pap smears.

Dental Care

- Cleanings, fillings, extractions, root canals, partial dentures, denture repair;
- X-ray, sterilization, support equipment; and
- Preventive dentistry consultation and treatment.

Vision Care

- Eye exams including refractions and eyeglass prescriptions;
- Retina exams with fundus cameras; and
- Free prescription glasses, both single vision and bifocals.

Prevention and Follow-Up Care

- Participation of community clinics for referrals to medical homes;
- Dental referrals to no-cost and low-cost dental clinics; and
- Health literacy education, with one-on-one nurse review of patient charts.

COVID-19 Care

- Patient education on COVID infection control precautions;
- Distribution of take-home PPE supplies; and
- Vaccinations.

Care Harbor has earned an unprecedented level of support from the local healthcare community, as evidenced by the participation of many hospital systems, medical, dental and optometry schools, provider organizations, suppliers, and thousands of volunteer professionals. The free clinics also collaborate closely with County departments, including the Departments of Public Health, Health Services, Public Social Services and Mental Health.

The charity is now planning to broaden its reach to include more communities throughout the County. Its urban mega-clinics – with up to 100 dental chairs, 55 medical exam rooms and 20 vision lanes – are being scaled to the needs of smaller communities and less dense population centers. Capacities will be proportional to the underserved in

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each community. These smaller scaled clinics can be produced on an expanded schedule.

All Care Harbor clinics function as a conduit of care for those who need medical or dental follow-up. Clients are referred to local community clinics and medical homes. Representatives of these facilities are on site at the events to make appointments – a partnership that advances the missions of the charity and the local safety net resources alike.

Care Harbor's name signifies its dual role - like a harbor, it is both destination and gateway. It is a destination where thousands in need have access to care. It is a gateway to health for the most vulnerable in our communities. It is a place where diseases are diagnosed and treated before they reach a critical stage causing both severe harm to the patients and a burden on safety net resources.

At a time of great challenge for our community, Care Harbor can have an immediate and enduring positive impact.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

- 1) Encourage the participation of all Los Angeles County (County) departments at the December 2, 2021 through December 5, 2021 Care Harbor event and future events to the extent that doing so is consistent with their mission and within their budgetary constraints;
- 2) Allow County department employees to work at the December 2, 2021 through December 5, 2021 Care Harbor event and future events on County time with the authorization of their immediate supervisor;
- 3) Allow County department representatives to utilize County vehicles to travel to and from the December 2, 2021 through December 5, 2021 Care Harbor event and future events as needed for treatment or educational purposes;
- 4) Authorize the Alliance for Health Integration to serve as the County liaison for the December 2, 2021 through December 5, 2021 Care Harbor events and Care Harbor events thereafter by:

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- a) Facilitating the site set up, department participation and take down for the December 2, 2021 through December 5, 2021 event and working with Care Harbor to identify appropriate sites for future Countywide events;
 - b) Reporting on the outcomes and clinical results of each Care Harbor event; and,
 - c) Encouraging all residents of the County who are uninsured or underinsured and in need of medical, dental or vision care to attend the free Care Harbor events
- 5) Instruct the Director of the Department of Public Health to ensure the Care Harbor events comply with all necessary COVID-19 safety measures, infection control requirements and best practices; and
- 6) Instruct the Chief Executive Officer, in coordination with the Alliance for Health Integration, to report back in writing in 60 days with opportunities for the County to provide financial support to the Care Harbor events and enable the Alliance for Health Integration to serve as the lead liaison for events in the future.

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