

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH

December 19, 2023

LA County Medical Professionals Strike

On December 12, 2023, the Union of American Physicians and Dentists (UAPD) gave notice that the physicians and dentists who serve the Departments of Health Services, Mental Health and Public Health have authorized a strike and will commence a six (6) day work stoppage at all Los Angeles County health care facilities, including all acute care hospitals, no earlier than the morning shift on December 27, 2023, and continuing through the evening shift on January 1, 2024. As the County continues to negotiate in good faith with UAPD to find a solution to the present dispute and prevent the threatened strike, the County must undertake measures in the event of a UAPD members strike.

In order for the County to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the patients and clients served by the Department of Health Services (DHS), and other County departments, it is necessary for the County to prepare staffing contingencies. DHS provides a wide array of essential services to some of the County's most vulnerable residents, and the County must be prepared to continue to provide essential services to these patients and clients in order to minimize, to the extent possible, the adverse impact

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that a strike by UAPD members would have upon these residents. While the Board recognizes the right of its employees to strike, it must also take all necessary actions to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the constituents the County serves in the days leading up to, and including, any work action.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Director of the Department of Health Services to:

1. Enter into new contracts or amend existing contracts, on a sole source basis if needed, including but not limited to personnel services contracts, to mitigate the risk of any direct or ancillary services gaps, augment existing rates of payment, waive inclusion of standard terms and conditions, such as insurance and indemnification, and take any other contracting actions necessary to ensure that the Department can augment staffing or otherwise respond during any strike; and
2. Negotiate payment rates that exceed those set forth in Los Angeles County Code section 2.76.530 to allow DHS to transfer patients to private or other suitable health care facilities and reimburse those providers at augmented rates including but not limited to prevailing or market rates for those services.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors authorize, after written approval from the CEO, potentially impacted County departments to contract, on a sole source basis if needed, for critical services to ensure no impact on the public. All contracts shall be approved by County Counsel as to form and content before processing.

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