

REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH

March 19, 2024

Support for Kaiser Permanente Therapist National Union of Healthcare Workers

Patient Management Time

As the largest private provider of mental healthcare for Los Angeles County residents as well as County employees and their families, Kaiser Permanente plays a critical role in ensuring parity for mental health care for county residents.

Yet, during a time in which the California Health Care Foundation reported that nearly 1 in 7 California adults experiences a mental illness and the American Academy of Child and American Academy of Pediatrics declared a national emergency over a “shocking” rise in families seeking urgent mental help, Kaiser is moving to reduce the amount of time for its therapists in several Los Angeles service areas to provide critical patient care duties.

Quality mental healthcare consists of more than face-to-face visits. It requires that therapists have sufficient time to respond to patient calls and emails, communicate with social service agencies, tailor treatment plans and chart appointments.

Patients most impacted would be children, whose therapists often need additional

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time to talk to parents, teachers and social service agencies, and non-English proficient speakers, who often require additional follow-up communication.

Kaiser has the means to provide all Los Angeles County residents with high quality mental health care. The HMO recently reported having more than \$55 billion in cash and investments. During a year when Kaiser is increasing health plan rates by 10 to 15 percent in Los Angeles, it should not be threatening to leave therapists with even less time to meet the needs of Kaiser patients. For these reasons, it is in the interest of the Board of Supervisors to support the efforts of therapists to maintain patient management time to ensure they are providing the best care possible to their patients.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors support Kaiser Permanente therapists efforts to maintain current levels of patient management time.

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