



County of Los Angeles

December 17, 2024

Dawyn R. Harrison  
County Counsel

**Board of Supervisors**

Hilda L. Solis  
Supervisor, First District

Holly Mitchell  
Supervisor, Second District

Lindsey P. Horvath  
Supervisor, Third District

Janice Hahn  
Supervisor, Fourth District

Kathryn Barger  
Supervisor, Fifth District

TO: EDWARD YEN  
Executive Officer  
Board of Supervisors

Attention: Agenda Preparation

FROM: ADRIENNE M. BYERS  
Litigation Cost Manager

RE: **Item for the Board of Supervisors' Agenda  
County Claims Board Recommendation  
Armine Sahakyan v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23CHCV03289**



Attached is the Agenda entry for the Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation regarding the above-referenced matter. Also attached are the Case Summary and Summary Corrective Action Plan to be made available to the public.

It is requested that this recommendation, Case Summary, and Summary Corrective Action Plan be placed on the Board of Supervisors' agenda.

AMB:lzs

Attachments

## Board Agenda

### MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matter entitled Armine Sahakyan v. County of Los Angeles, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23CHCV03289, in the amount of \$250,000, and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Department of Health Services' budget.

This medical malpractice lawsuit concerns allegations that Olive View Medical Center staff were negligent resulting in injuries to Plaintiff.

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Armine Sahakyan v. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	23CHCV03289
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	10/30/2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Health Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 250,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Levik Yarian Matadores Accident & Injury Lawyers
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Narbeh Bagdasarian Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On May 26, 2023, Ms. Sahakyan presented to Olive View Medical Center ("OVMC") Emergency Department complaining of an infection in her lower extremity. On May 27, 2023, Ms. Sahakyan fell shortly after getting out of her bed at OVMC and suffered injuries to her face.</p> <p>Ms. Sahakyan filed a malpractice lawsuit against the County alleging OVMC staff failed to protect her from the fall.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 10,975
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 2,574



## Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for to the settlement documents developed for the Board of Supervisors and/or the County of Los Angeles Claims Board. The summary should be a specific overview of the claims/lawsuits' identified root causes and corrective actions (status, time frame, and responsible party). This summary does not replace the Corrective Action Plan form. If there is a question related to confidentiality, please consult County Counsel.

Date of incident/event:	May 27, 2023
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	On May 26, 2023, A.S. presented to Olive View Medical Center ("OVMC") Emergency Department complaining of a recurrent infection. On May 27, 2023, A.S. fell shortly after getting out of her bed at OVMC. She suffered injuries to her face. Her injuries were fully treated. A.S. filed a malpractice lawsuit against the County of Los Angeles alleging that the OVMC staff failed to prevent her from falling.

1. Briefly describe the **root cause(s)** of the claim/lawsuit:

Facial injuries resulting from a fall while being treated in the emergency room at OVMC.

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:  
(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

- Education provided to nursing staff working the emergency room at OVMC related to:
  - Reassessment of pain
  - Reassessment of vital signs according to the Emergency Severity Index score
  - Completion of a post-fall risk assessment
- DHS has convened a system-wide falls committee to evaluate mechanisms for reducing the risk of falls


3. Are the corrective actions addressing department-wide system issues?


- Yes – The corrective actions address department-wide system issues.
- No – The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.

County of Los Angeles  
Summary Corrective Action Plan

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Name: (Risk Management Coordinator) Arun Patel, MD, JD	
Signature: 	Date: 10/09/2024

Name: (Department Head) Christina Ghaly, MD	
Signature: 	Date: 10/16/2024

<b>Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY</b>	
Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this department.	
Name: (Risk Management Inspector General) Betty Karmirlian, Acting Risk Management Inspector General	
Signature: 	Date: 10/17/2024