



County of Los Angeles

February 18, 2025

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
Andrea Cifuentes, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24STCV06950**



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 Andrea Cifuentes, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 24STCV06950, in the amount of \$1,327,000, and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Department of Health Services' budget.

This medical malpractice lawsuit arises from the death of a patient during surgery at Los Angeles General Hospital.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Andrea Cifuentes vs. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	24STCV06950
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	March 20, 2024
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Health Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 1,327,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Sean O'Neill Stalwart Law
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Narbeh Bagdasarian Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	Claimants/Plaintiffs allege malpractice at Los Angeles General Medical Center resulting in the death of Andrea Cifuentes on May 18, 2023. Given the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the proposed amount is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 20,900
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 4,991



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 18, 2023
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	On May 18, 2023, A.C. a 32-year-old female, was admitted to Los Angeles General Hospital ("LA General") to undergo a hysterectomy and salpingo-oophorectomy. During the procedure, the surgeons noticed extensive bleeding. Additional staff were called to assist the surgical team. Despite several measures to control and stop the bleeding, the patient died as a result of the bleeding. LA General staff disclosed the event to the patient's family, offered an apology, and proposed to compensate the family for their loss.

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

Vascular injury during laparoscopic surgery resulting in death.

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:

(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

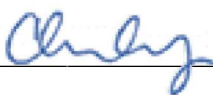
- All appropriate personnel corrective actions were taken.
- The Department of Health Services is assessing the training resident and fellows receive for laparoscopic surgery techniques to ensure that they are optimized and is exploring technological options to improve the safety of this type of surgery.

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

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator) Arun Patel, MD, JD	
Signature: 	Date: 11/27/2024

Name: (Department Head) Christina Ghaly, MD	
Signature: 	Date: 11/27/2024

Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY
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: 11/27/2024