

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

AGN. NO.
May 6, 2025

Proclaiming May 2025 as Stroke Awareness Month

Every May, the United States observes May as Stroke Awareness Month with the sole purpose to raise awareness of the signs, risk factors, and strategies to prevent stroke. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- “One in six deaths from cardiovascular disease was due to stroke.
- Every 40 seconds, someone in the United States has a stroke.
- Every 3 minutes and 11 seconds, someone dies of a stroke in this country.
- Every year, more than 795,000 people in the United States have a stroke. About 610,000 of these are first or new strokes.
- Stroke-related costs in the United States [amounted] to nearly \$56.2 billion dollars.
- Stroke is the leading cause of serious long-term disability.”¹

With strokes being the leading cause of serious long-term disability for Americans, it is crucial that we learn and understand what the warning signs are so that we can act quickly to access help. The CDC shares that “the chances of survival are greater when emergency treatment begins quickly.”²

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/stroke/data-research/facts-stats/index.html>

² Id.

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In 2017, Los Angeles County (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) partnered with the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) as well as the Arline and Gluck Foundation to launch an innovative, one-of-a-kind in California, ambulance, called the “Mobile Stroke Unit” (MSU), which operates a specialized ambulance equipped with a CT scanner which is dispatched with the fire department when there are emergency calls for those experiencing a stroke.³ With a team of medical personnel, the team MSU can quickly diagnose a stroke using a Computed Tomography (CT) scanner and provide medical intervention such as clot-busting medication, hemorrhage reversal agents, blood pressure medications and seizure medications, amongst others. Since its inception, the MSU has responded to 1,845 emergency calls and has admitted, treated and transported 350 patients. With MSU intervention, these patients received one of a kind, hyperacute, prehospital diagnosis, treatment, and triage. Beginning in partnership with one fire department in 2017, as of 2025 the MSU program now dispatches with eight LA County fire stations, expanding the reach of this resource to more patients in need of acute stroke care.

Geospatial mapping performed by the UCLA Health team has uncovered the density and distribution of stroke incidence(s) across the county and this data is being used to optimally place the MSU ambulances, in order to maximize the number of lives saved. With the support of LA County Emergency Medical Services, the UCLA Health-LA County collaborative has now expanded its fleet to three mobile stroke units operating in different regions of the County to serve Los Angelenos experiencing an acute stroke.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors proclaim May 2025 as Stroke Awareness Month.

³ <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/115268.pdf>

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Direct County Communications and the Departments of Public Health and Health Services to provide information on their respective websites and social media accounts on symptoms of strokes and the Mobile Stroke Unit, in English and other relevant threshold languages; and
- 2) Direct the Departments of Public Health and Health Services to provide information to staff, contractors, and relevant departments that work with or provide services to clients who are vulnerable or at risk for a stroke, such as the Departments of Aging, Children and Family Services, Public Social Services and others, about the Mobile Stroke Unit so that they know how to contact and utilize its services.

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