

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

June 10, 2025

Understanding the Department of Health Services’ Nonrenewal of Specialty Care Physician Contracts

In 2025, the Los Angeles County (County) Department of Health Services will terminate 46 specialty care physician contracts. Some of these contracts have already been terminated while others are set to be terminated on June 30, 2025. Seventeen (17) of these specialty care physician contracts impact the Martin Luther King, Jr. Outpatient Center.

It is important for the public and patient community to understand the rationale for these specialty care physician contract changes. Modifications and reductions in the County’s health service delivery system should be completed through a transparent process that keeps the public and staff informed and ensures their concerns are heard. Transparency is critical during times of budget constraints when County residents are facing uncertain, confusing, and sweeping federal cuts to their health care services and benefits. It is also of paramount importance in communities facing particularly acute health challenges. South Los Angeles, for example, faces large shortages of doctors across all specialties, resulting in inadequate access to preventive, primary, and specialty care. This community, where diabetes prevalence is significantly higher than both the County and state average, and life expectancy is ten years shorter, also faces a paucity of healthcare providers who resemble the diverse population and who can provide culturally appropriate care. Any reductions and/or eliminations of health care services in this community, and in other communities like it, could have negative health repercussions and should be carefully considered.

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Mitchell	_____
Horvath	_____
Hahn	_____
Barger	_____

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Direct the Director of the Department of Health Services (DHS), in consultation with County Counsel, to provide a verbal report to the Board of Supervisors at the June 17, 2025, Board meeting on its termination of 46 specialty care physician contracts in 2025 and its efforts to avoid any impact on services.
2. This report shall include:
 - a. The rationale for the nonrenewal of the specialty care physician contracts, including any reductions and/or relocation of service delivery;
 - b. A description of the types of services proposed to be or already reduced, eliminated, relocated or otherwise impacted;
 - c. The extent to which DHS plans to fill any physician service vacancies and associated timelines;
 - d. Status of hires for any contract that will be replaced by a County employee, if applicable, and steps taken to ensure no reductions of service or interruptions in care will result before the new employee's start date;
 - e. If the service is being permanently terminated, reduced or relocated, the volume of care that had been delivered by the terminated provider in the previous year at the existing site and steps taken to ensure patients will still have timely and uninterrupted access to geographically accessible and adequate care;
 - f. Any other significant changes in medical services, directly operated or contracted, that DHS has made over the last six months; and
 - g. Steps DHS plans to take to ensure the Board and public are kept informed about significant changes to its health care delivery system before they occur.

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