



**Health Services**  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

May 05, 2026



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LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVAL TO PROVIDE LEGAL REPRESENTATION AND FUNDS FOR  
SETTLEMENT FOR TWO PHYSICIANS NAMED IN MEDICAL BOARD OF  
CALIFORNIA ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING FOR HARBOR-UCLA  
MEDICAL CENTER  
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

Request approval to provide legal representation and payment of a settlement of an administrative fine for a former administrator of the Department of Health Services ("DHS"), Harbor-UCLA Medical Center ("H-UCLA"), and a current administrator of DHS, H-UCLA, who are also licensed physicians, and the subject of a complaint to the Medical Board of California ("MBC"), related to the obligation of a health care facility to submit reports to the MBC related to actions taken against a physician's medical staff membership, clinical privileges, or employment. The issues in the administrative proceeding involve actions that occurred in the course and scope of employment of the employees.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

1. Make a finding, pursuant to Government Code section 995.6 that the former DHS employee and current DHS employee, as described below, acted in good faith and without malice in the apparent interests of the County.
2. Approve the provision of a legal defense and approve payment by DHS of an administrative fine of \$150,000, for the former DHS employee and current DHS employee, for the full and final settlement of this proceeding initiated before the MBC, at the County's expense.

3. Direct County Counsel to secure legal representation, or authorize reimbursement for attorney fees incurred, at the County's expense, for the former DHS employee and current DHS employee.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approval of the first recommendation is necessary to exercise the County's option, under Government Code Section 995.6, to provide for the legal defense for an administrative proceeding brought against a former DHS employee and a current DHS employee.

Approval of the second and third recommendations will provide for legal representation for the former DHS employee and the current DHS employee who is the subject of the administrative proceeding based on status as an officer of H-UCLA as is routine and required by law, and will allow DHS to resolve the matter without a costly administrative hearing.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The recommended action supports the County's Strategic Plan North Star 3, Realize Tomorrow's Government Today, by strengthening our internal controls and processes while being cognizant of efficiency to continue good stewardship of the public trust and fiscal responsibility, and by ensuring that the committed efforts of our staff are recognized and defended when challenged, to continually assess and strengthen our efficiency and effectiveness, maximize and leverage resources, ensure fiscal responsibility, and hold ourselves accountable.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The costs for providing legal representation may reach up to \$104,000 if this matter proceeds to hearing. DHS and the MBC have reached a negotiated settlement in the amount of \$150,000. Funds will be allocated from H-UCLA's existing operating budget and there is no net County cost associated with the recommendations. If the costs increase, they will continue to be allocated from H-UCLA operating budget.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

Pursuant to California Government Code section 995.6, a public entity is not required to provide for the defense of an administrative proceeding brought against a County employee. However, the statute allows that a public entity may provide for such defense if certain, specified findings are made. Those findings include that the acts or omissions of the employee must have occurred in the course and scope of County employment and that the provision of a defense for the employee is in the County's best interests. Further, it must be determined that the employee acted or failed to act, in good faith, without actual malice, and in the apparent interests of the County.

DHS and County Counsel reviewed the actions of both employees and determined them to be within the scope of County employment, conducted in good faith, without malice, and in the interests of the County. The administrative proceeding involves actions related to the reporting obligations to the MBC based on the employee's former position at H-UCLA and the current employee's position at H-UCLA. As the reporting actions at issue were on behalf of the hospital, representation of the former DHS employee and current DHS employee in the administrative proceeding is also appropriate.

DHS believes, given the subject matter of the administrative proceeding, the underlying circumstances, roles and responsibilities of the employees involved, that legal representation and payment of fines imposed is appropriate.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

Not applicable.

**CONCLUSION**

DHS recommends that your Board find that the former DHS employee and current DHS employee acted in good faith, without malice, and in the apparent interests of the County and, that providing for the defense of the named individual is within the best interests of the County. DHS further recommends that the Board approve the provision of a legal defense and authorize payment of the settlement of the matter in the amount of \$150,000, at the County's expense.

Respectfully submitted,



Christina R. Ghaly, M.D.

Director

CG:cm

c: Chief Executive Office  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors