OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY
COUNSEL

ADOPTED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

48 September 15, 2026

EDWARD YEN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

County of Los Angeles

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September 15, 2026

TO: EDWARD YEN
Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors

Attention: Agenda Preparation

FROM: LILIANA CAMPOS
Litigation Cost Manager

RE: **Item for the Board of Supervisors' Agenda**
County Claims Board Recommendation
Yvonne Escobar, et al. v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV14825

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.

LC:tf

Attachments

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Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matter entitled Yvonne Escobar, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV14825, in the amount of $4,000,000, and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Aging & Disabilities Department's budget.

This wrongful death lawsuit arises from the alleged negligent acts of the Aging and Disabilities Department.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME		Yvonne Escobar, et al. vs. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER		22STCV14825
COURT		Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED		May 5, 2020
COUNTY DEPARTMENT		Aging and Disabilities
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	$	4,000,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF		RICHARD LARA, ESQ. Lara Law Firm, APC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY		JESSIE LEE Senior Deputy County Counsel Social Services Division JENNIFER GYSLER, ESQ. Monroy, Averbuck and Gysler
NATURE OF CASE		Plaintiff alleges wrongful death, survival action, and negligent retention due to her adult brother fatally stabbing their mother after involvement with Adult Protective Services. Due to the high risks and uncertainties of litigation, a reasonable settlement at this time will avoid further litigation costs.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	$	89,616
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	$	19,124

Case Name: Case Name: Yvonne Escobar, et al. vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.

Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for attachment 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 5, 2020
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	Plaintiff filed a wrongful death action against the Aging and Disabilities Department alleging that Adult Protective Services (APS) received reports of her brother's physical abuse of their mother. Plaintiff alleges APS failed to properly investigate and report abuse of their mother. On May 5, 2020, plaintiff's brother fatally stabbed their mother.

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

The root causes of this lawsuit are related to factors of lacking oversight, case handling and processing. More specifically:

- Case oversight lacked efficient active monitoring and managerial oversight including maintaining communication with involved entities. Employee did not meet internal review guidelines and had delayed response and documentation. Employee had a high caseload.
- Lack of policies related to investigating and handling cases related to physical abuse/domestic violence and mental health illness.
- Case oversight did not include utilization of additional resources including referring to the Center of Excellence for a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) approach.
- Lack of timely cross reporting to law enforcement.

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

Case Management and Oversight

The department's case tracking system will be modified to create specific identifications for cases related to domestic violence and mental health illness. This will allow for specific tracking and monitoring of these priority cases. Management will run reports using this new identification to monitor case progress and ensure proper facilitation and handling. Management will conduct bi-weekly reviews to ensure case management is proceeding in the most efficient and effective means available. These will allow management to provide specific oversight and ensure proper case documentation and recurring case review as needed.

The Department is also currently evaluating several changes to address caseload issues including recently created specialized unit to address older pending cases, evaluating the intake process and related contract, evaluating the implementation of a decision-making tool and working with other County social work departments to implement their best practices.

Policy Development

A policy has been created to mandate use of the two new work action flags/ special designation fields within the case management system. Policy also establishes strict safety planning and law enforcement consultation protocols for all cases involving domestic violence or suspected abusers, family or household members with mental health issues.

The policy requires social workers to develop a safety plan and document the consultation with law enforcement within 24 hours of the initial home visit for all high-risk cases involving suspected abusers with a history of chronic mental instability or ongoing violence. The safety plan will also include an evaluation and referral to a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT).

Management Oversight and Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) Approach

Ensuring these cases are referred to the Center of Excellence for a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) approach helps ensure a diverse comprehensive approach in handling. The newly established intake identification, reporting mechanism and related policy will support the management oversight approach and will help in facilitating a long-term case management strategy including an MDT approach as applicable.

Automation of Law Enforcement Cross-Reporting

The department is working with local law enforcement agencies and the Department of Children Family Services to evaluate the ability to automate referrals to law enforcement.

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.

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator) Derrick Martin	
Signature: Derrick Martin	Date: 07/02/2026

Name: (Department Head) Maral Karaccusian	
Signature: Maral Karaccusian	Date: 07/02/2026

Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY

Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County?

☐ Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability.

☒ No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this department.

Name: (Risk Management Inspector General) Betty Karmirlian	
Signature: Betty Karmirlian	Date: 7/2/26