



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CLAIMS BOARD  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2713

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Arlene Barrera  
Auditor-Controller  
Steve Robles  
Chief Executive Office  
Adrienne M. Byers  
Office of the County Counsel

NOTICE OF MEETING

The County of Los Angeles Claims Board will hold a regular meeting on **Monday, August 2, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.**, via online conference call. Members of the public who would like to listen to the open sessions of the meeting may call (323) 776-6996, then enter ID 709 548 653#, at 9:30 a.m. on August 2, 2021.

**Reports of actions taken in Closed Session.** The County of Los Angeles Claims Board will report actions taken on any Closed Session Items on Monday, August 2, 2021 at 11:10 a.m. Members of the public who would like to hear reportable actions taken on any Closed Session items may call (323) 776-6996, then enter ID 709 548 653# at 11:05 a.m. on August 2, 2021. Please note that this time is an approximate start time and there may be a short delay before the Closed Session is concluded and the actions can be reported.

**TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT:**

You may submit written public comments by e-mail to [claimsboard@counsel.lacounty.gov](mailto:claimsboard@counsel.lacounty.gov) or by mail to: Attention: Los Angeles County Claims Board, Executive Office, County Counsel, 500 W. Temple St., Los Angeles, CA, 90012.

Written public comment or documentation must be submitted no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, July 30, 2021. Please include the Agenda item and meeting date in your correspondence. Comments and any other written submissions will become part of the official record of the meeting.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:** Any supporting documents will be posted and can be provided upon request. Please submit requests for supporting documents to [claimsboard@counsel.lacounty.gov](mailto:claimsboard@counsel.lacounty.gov).

If you would like more information, please contact Derek Stane at [dstane@counsel.lacounty.gov](mailto:dstane@counsel.lacounty.gov).

## AGENDA

1. Call to Order.
2. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Claims Board on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Claims Board.
3. Closed Session – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9).
  - a. Georgia F. Law v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV37498  
  
This dangerous condition lawsuit arises from injuries allegedly sustained in an alleged trip and fall accident on a street maintained by the Department of Public Works; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$25,000.  
  
[See Supporting Document](#)
  - b. Korrie O'Neal v. Jessica Martinez, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV26201  
  
This lawsuit arises from injuries plaintiff allegedly sustained in an automobile accident involving an employee of the Department of Children and Family Services; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$26,640.02.  
  
[See Supporting Document](#)
  - c. Long Beach Memorial Medical Center, et al. v. Los Angeles County Department of Health Services  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV04018  
  
This lawsuit against the Department of Health Services alleges breach of contract arising out health care services provided by plaintiff; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$45,000.  
  
[See Supporting Document](#)
  - d. Memorial Health Services v. Los Angeles County Department of Health Services  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20LBCV00261  
  
This lawsuit against the Department of Health Services alleges breach of contract arising out of health care services provided by plaintiff; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$50,000.  
  
[See Supporting Document](#)

- e. Nathan Booker v. County of Los Angeles  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV02257

This lawsuit concerns allegations that a Department of Health Services employee was subjected to harassment, discrimination and retaliation; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$175,000.

- f. Michael Rathbun, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC526951

This lawsuit concerns allegations that a Sheriff's deputy was subjected to retaliation by the Sheriff's Department; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$400,000.

- g. Danessa Valentine v. County of Los Angeles  
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC602184

This lawsuit concerns allegations that the Department of Children and Family Services subjected two applicants for employment to discrimination, violation of privacy, and unlawful medical inquiries; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$1,250,000.

4. Approval of the minutes of the July 19, 2021, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

See Supporting Document

5. Items not on the posted agenda, to be referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a further meeting of the Board, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take immediate action came to the attention of the Board subsequent to the posting of the agenda.
6. Adjournment.

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Georgia F. Law v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	19STCV37498
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	October 21, 2019
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 25,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Bassam Marijiya
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Richard K. Kudo Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This lawsuit arises from a trip and fall accident involving Plaintiff Georgia F. Law that occurred on East Altadena Drive in Altadena. Ms. Law claims to have suffered injuries as a result of the accident. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 34,533
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 1,266

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Korrie O'Neal v. Jessica Martinez et al.
CASE NUMBER	20STCV026201
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	July 13, 2020
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Children and Family Services ("DCFS")
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 26,640.02
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Vince Xu Lem Garcia Law
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Mark W. Lomax, Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This lawsuit arises from a rear-end collision between the personal vehicle of a DCFS employee driving on County business and the plaintiff's vehicle on November 20, 2019, in unincorporated West Covina, resulting in personal injuries and property damage. Because of the risk of a verdict awarding significantly higher damages, settlement of the lawsuit is recommended.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 0
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 0

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Long Beach Memorial Medical Center, et al. vs Los Angeles County Department of Health Services
CASE NUMBER	19STCV04018
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	February 15, 2019
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Health Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 45,000.00
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Aanchal V. Sanghvi, Esq. Stephenson, Acquisto & Colman
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Jennifer Gysler, Esq. Monroy, Averbuck & Gysler
	Kelly A. Hassel Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>Plaintiff operates hospitals in the Long Beach area and claims that in 2016 and 2018 the Department of Health Services ("DHS") underpaid/denied benefits for medical services provided to patients of a County administered, sponsored or financial health plan.</p> <p>DHS denied the 14 claims as it was determined by DHS medical experts that Plaintiff either did not notify DHS within 24 hours of the patients' admittance to the hospital and/or the patients did not meet the criteria for the level of care provided and the patients could have been transferred to an in-network hospital or discharged earlier.</p> <p>Plaintiff filed a civil action against DHS for Breach of Implied in Fact Contract and Breach of the Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing and is seeking payment for medical services rendered.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 4,230.00
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 0

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Memorial Health Services v. Los Angeles County Department of Health Services
CASE NUMBER	20LBCV00261
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	May 21, 2020
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Health Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 50,000.00
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Shadi Shayan, Esq. Stephenson, Acquisto & Colman
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Jennifer Gysler, Esq. Monroy, Averbuck & Gysler  Kelly A. Hassel Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	Memorial Health Services ("Memorial") operates hospitals in the Long Beach area and claims that in 2018 and 2019 the Department of Health Services ("DHS") underpaid for medical services provided by Memorial to 12 patients for whom DHS is responsible to provide or pay their medically necessary care.  Memorial filed a civil action against DHS for Breach of Implied in Fact Contract, violation of Health and Safety Code section 1371.4, and Breach of the Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing and is seeking payment for medical services rendered.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 9,702.00
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 0

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CLAIMS BOARD

### MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

JULY 19, 2021

#### 1. Call to Order.

The meeting of the County of Los Angeles Claims Board was called to order at 9:38 a.m. The meeting was held via teleconference with all Claims Board Members participating telephonically. Claims Board Members online for the teleconference meeting were: Chair Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Adrienne Byers.

All other persons also appeared telephonically. Those attending the meeting were: Office of the County Counsel: Michael Gordon, Yuan Chang, Adrian Gragas, Richard Kudo, Richard Hsueh, Melodie Larsen, Kent Sommer, Anthony Morrone, and Camille Granville; Department of Public Works: Michael Hays, and Ronald Castaneda; Internal Services Department: Marian Bellard; Fire Department: Julia Kim; Sheriff's Department: David Sprengel, Duane Allen, Hugo Macias, Jason Skeen, Melynie Rivers, and Shanese Winfrey; Department of Children and Family Services: Armand Montiel; Probation Department: Robert Smythe, and Chereise Martin; and Outside Counsel: Thomas Hurrell, Andy Baum, Janet Keuper, Lenore Kelly, Andrew Pongracz, Paul Berkowitz, and Ronda Jamgotchian.

#### 2. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Claims Board on items of interest within the subject-matter jurisdiction of the Claims Board.

No members of the public were on the public teleconference phone line to address the Claims Board.

#### 3. Closed Session – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Subdivision [a] of Government Code section 54956.9).

At 9:39 a.m., the Chair convened the meeting into closed session to discuss the items listed as 4(a) through 4(j).

#### 4. Report of actions taken in Closed Session.

No members of the public were on the public teleconference phone line to hear the reportable actions of the Claims Board.

At 12:39 p.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session via the public teleconference phone line and reported the actions taken in closed session as follows:

##### a. Robert Steinman v. County of Los Angeles, et al. Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV35091

This dangerous condition lawsuit arises from fatal injuries sustained when plaintiff's mother was struck and killed by a vehicle driven by an employee of the Department of Public Works.

##### Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$45,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Adrienne Byers

b. **Lucas Sanchez Rodriguez v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STLC09380**

This lawsuit arises from injuries plaintiff allegedly sustained in an automobile accident involving an employee of the Department of Public Works.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$29,500.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Adrienne Byers

c. **Dessalegn Alemu v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BS173198**

This lawsuit arises from injuries plaintiff allegedly sustained in an automobile accident involving an Internal Services Department employee.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$99,995.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Adrienne Byers

d. **Leilani Ortiz, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV07358**

This lawsuit arises from injuries plaintiff and her family allegedly sustained in a vehicle accident involving a Fire Department service truck.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of this matter in the amount of \$16,000,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Adrienne Byers

e. **Lucia C. Montes v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 18STCV04579**

This lawsuit arises from injuries plaintiff allegedly sustained in an automobile accident involving a Sheriff's sergeant.

**Action Taken:**

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$25,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Adrienne Byers

f. **Romanah Holmes-Bey v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**  
**United States District Court Case No. 15-CV-04822**

This lawsuit concerns allegations of civil rights violations, false arrest, and excessive force by Sheriff's deputies during a traffic stop.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$75,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Adrienne Byers

g. **Demetrius Jose Vernon v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**  
**United States District Court Case No. 20-CV-07037 (MRW)**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that the Sheriff's Department failed to protect an inmate who was assaulted while he was incarcerated at Men's Central Jail.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$50,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Adrienne Byers

h. **Joseph Charles Evans, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**  
**United States District Court Case No. 2:19-CV-00793-MWF**

This lawsuit alleges wrongful death and federal civil rights violations arising out of the death of an inmate while in custody of the Sheriff's Department at the Inmate Reception Center.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of this matter in the amount of \$1,500,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Adrienne Byers

i. **Pearl Steinberg v. County of Los Angeles**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV22717**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the Department of Children and Family Services was subjected to discrimination, failure to provide reasonable accommodation, and retaliation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$38,500.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Adrienne Byers

j. **Claim of Sheila Mitchell**

This claim concerns allegations that an employee of the Probation Department was subjected to discrimination and retaliation based on sexual orientation and disability.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of this matter in the amount of \$350,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Adrienne Byers

5. **Approval of the Minutes of the June 21, 2021, regular meeting of the Claims Board.**

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the Minutes.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Adrienne Byers

6. **Items not on the posted agenda, to be referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a further meeting of the Board, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take immediate action came to the attention of the Board subsequent to the posting of the agenda.**

No such matters were discussed.

7. **Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CLAIMS BOARD

By  \_\_\_\_\_  
Derek Stane