

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD
HELD VIA ONLINE CONFERENCE CALL
ON MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021, AT 9:30 A.M.

Present: Chair Steve Robles, Arlene Barrera, and Adrienne Byers.

- 1. Call to Order.**
- 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 line to address the Claims Board or to listen to the reportable actions of the Claims Board.

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

- a. **Lori Ibrahim, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
United States District Court Case No. 2:18-CV-06013

This lawsuit alleges the wrongful detention of minor children and civil rights violations by the Department of Children and Family Services.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$800,000.

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

[See Supporting Documents](#)

- b. **Don Spencer, et al. v. County of Los Angeles**
United States District Court Case No. 2:19-CV-00808

This wrongful death lawsuit alleges excessive force and violations of civil rights during a physical altercation with Sheriff's Deputies.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board continued this item to a future meeting date.

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

c. Claim of Judith Boston

This claim involves allegations that an employee with the Department of Health Services was subjected to retaliation and discrimination.

Action Taken:

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

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

d. Claim of Shawn Phipps

This claim involves allegations that an employee with the Department of Health Services was subjected to sexual harassment, disability and other forms of discrimination.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$100,000.

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

4. Report of actions taken in Closed Session.

The Claims Board reconvened in open session and reported the actions taken in Closed Session as indicated under Agenda Item No. 3 above.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the April 5, 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

[See Supporting Document](#)

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.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Lori Ibrahim, et al., v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	2:18-CV-06013
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	July 10, 2018
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Children and Family Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 800,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Robert Powell and Rachel R. Raymond
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Jessie Lee Deputy County Counsel Christie Swiss Collins Collins Muir + Stuart
NATURE OF CASE	Plaintiffs claim their civil rights were violated when social workers made false allegations and failed to include exculpatory evidence in reports submitted to the juvenile court, resulting in the court removing and detaining their children for 14 months.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ \$242,985
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ \$24,620

Case Name: Ibrahim, Lori, et al. vs. COLA, 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:	July 10, 2016
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	Plaintiffs assert that Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) employees, Jeanette Mateos, Mark Williams, Caren Chen, Rabia Mirza, and Aimee McGowan intentionally falsified evidence or excluded exculpatory information in their reports to the juvenile court. Specifically, they allege that Ms. Mateos submitted a falsified affidavit in support of the Removal Warrant and subsequent Detention Report. Mr. Williams was Ms. Mateos' supervisor. Chen allegedly submitted a Petition to the Juvenile Court with false information. After the children were detained, Ms. Mirza allegedly submitted additional false reports to the Juvenile Court that supported continued detention. Ms. McGowan was Ms. Mirza's supervisor.

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


Non-consensus among medical staff interviewed during the Department's investigation and DCFS investigative social workers.


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

While the Department maintains that no DCFD policies were violated, this matter was primarily settled for economic reasons, but the department is also reviewing if any policy changes are warranted.

3. Are the corrective actions addressing department-wide system issues?

- The corrective actions address department-wide system issues
✓ The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.


Name: (Risk Management Coordinator)	
DIANE IGLESIAS, SENIOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR	
Signature: 	Date: 3/18/21

Name: (Department Head)	
BOBBY D. CAGLE, DIRECTOR	
Signature: 	Date: 3-24-21

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)	
Destiny Castro	
Signature: 	Date: 3/25/2021

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 5, 2021

1. Call to Order.

This meeting of the County of Los Angeles Claims Board was called to order at 9:39 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: Joseph Langton, Mark Lomax, Jessica Rivas, Yuan Chang, Michael Gordon, LaTasha Corry, Kevin Engelen, Melodie Larson, Richard Hsueh, Shawn Luna, Narbeh Bagdasarian, and Rosanne Wong; Sheriff's Department: Rick Mejia, Damon Jones, Jason Skeen, Dwayne Allen, Melynie Rivers, and Shanese Winfrey; Department of Public Works: Ronald Castenada, Martin Moreno, and Michael Hays; Department of Beaches and Harbors: Stephen Popescu; Department of Children and Family Services: Armand Montiel; Fire Department: Julia Kim; Department of Health Services: Arun Patel, Sean Henderson, Dawn Abarca, and Luis Pena; and Outside Counsel: Tom Guterres, Tom Hurrell, Faryar Barzin, and Raymond Sakai.

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 9:40 a.m., Chair Steve Robles convened the meeting into closed session to discuss the items listed as 4(a) through 4(i).

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 12:40 p.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session via the public teleconference line and reported the actions taken in closed session as follows:

a. Non-Litigated Claim of Edith & Jaime Campo

This claim seeks compensation from the Department of Public Works for property damage allegedly caused by a backflow of sewage due to a mainline blockage.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$39,339.21.

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

b. Non-Litigated Claims of John and Sondra Lombardo

These claims seek compensation from the Department of Public Works for property damage allegedly caused by a backflow of sewage due to a mainline blockage.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$116,979.22.

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

**c. Ericka Aceves v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV13902**

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 the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$40,000.

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

**d. Karalee Ensign v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV13928**

This dangerous condition lawsuit arises from injuries plaintiff allegedly sustained in a trip and fall accident in a Department of Beaches and Harbors parking lot.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$60,000.

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

**e. Jorge Sigala v. Los Angeles County Fire Department, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV33812**

This lawsuit arises from injuries plaintiff allegedly sustained in a vehicle accident involving a Fire Department employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$61,000.

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

f. **Larry Soong, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV28716

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$99,999.

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

g. **Tamika Fair v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
United States District Court Case No. 19-CV-5574

This lawsuit involves allegations of physical and sexual battery by a Sheriff's Deputy.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$70,000.

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

h. **Alvaro Jimenez v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
United States District Court Case No. 2:19-CV-08680

This lawsuit involves allegations of federal civil rights violations arising from a non-fatal Sheriff Deputy-involved shooting.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$440,000.

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

i. **Sarah Tillman v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCV38394

This lawsuit involves allegations of civil rights violations and wrongful detention of plaintiff's child by the Department of Children and Family Services.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$898,728.98.

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

j. **Juan Manuel Correa, Sr., et al. v. County of Los Angeles**
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 690171

This wrongful death lawsuit arises from the death of plaintiff's son, who died while in the custody of the Sheriff's Department and while receiving care from the Department of Health Services.

Action Taken:

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

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

5. **Approval of the Minutes of the March 15, 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.**

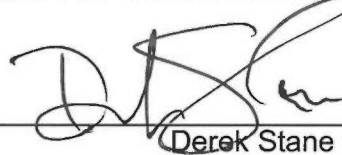
No such matters were discussed.

7. **Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CLAIMS BOARD

By



Derek Stane