

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD
HELD VIA ONLINE CONFERENCE CALL
ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 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. Non-Litigated Claims of Jorge A. Gomez, Jr.

This claim involves personal injuries and property damage allegedly sustained in a vehicle accident involving a Sheriff's Department deputy.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$61,775.82.

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

[See Supporting Document](#)

**b. Jennie Sandoval v. County of Los Angeles, et al
Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 20STCV07440**

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 recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of this matter in the amount of \$300,000.

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

[See Supporting Documents](#)

c. **Lashanda Chadwick v. County of Los Angeles**
Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 21STCV03263

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the Department of Health Services was subjected to race and gender discrimination.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$49,000.

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

d. **Deborah Connaughton v. County of Los Angeles**
Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 19STCV01073

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the Department of Health Services was subjected to disability discrimination, failure to accommodate, and retaliation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of this matter in the amount of \$325,000.

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

e. **Claudia Chavez v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**
United States District Court Case No. 2:19-CV-10735-JAK-RAO

This lawsuit concerns allegations that plaintiff, who is deaf, was not given a qualified sign language interpreter by the Department of Health Services prior to having a surgical procedure at Los Angeles County + University of Southern California Medical Center.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$250,000.

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

[See Supporting Documents](#)

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 November 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

[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	Non-Litigated Claims of Jorge A. Gomez, Jr. and Mercury Insurance ASO Jorge A. Gomez, Jr. CRM No. 19-1155278*001-002
CASE NUMBER	N/A
COURT	N/A
DATE FILED	N/A
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 61,775.82
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	N/A
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Mark W. Lomax, Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	These claims involve personal injuries and property damage resulting from a collision between the claimant's vehicle and a Sheriff's patrol vehicle.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 0
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 0

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Jennie Sandoval v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	20STCV07440
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	February 24, 2020
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Public Works
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 300,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Mondana Najafabadi, Esq. Law Office of Mondana Najafabadi Thomas S. Feher, Esq. Feher Law, APC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Yuan Chang Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This case arises from a automobile collision that occurred on February 28, 2018, when a car operated by a Department of Public Works employee struck the car driven by Plaintiff Jennie Sandoval. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is recommended.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 66,794
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 29,262

Case Name: SANDOVAL, JENNIE



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:	February 28, 2018
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	On February 28, 2018, a former PW employee was traveling North on Citrus Street in West Covina when they collided with Plaintiff Jennie Sandoval who was traveling East on Cortez Street.

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

According to the Traffic Collision Report, both parties stopped at their respective stop signs, however the PW employee did not see Ms. Sandoval and struck her in the intersection.

This collision was reviewed by the PW Safety Office which determined the employee caused the collision by failing to properly stop and clear traffic before proceeding through the intersection.

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:

(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

The PW Safety Office reviewed the employee's Vehicle Incident Report and recommended a formal Automotive Safety Committee review. The employee retired before the Committee review was convened.

No further actions are contemplated.

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)

Michael J. Hays

Signature:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M J Hays".


Date:


September 13, 2021

Name: (Department Head)

Mark Pestrella

County of Los Angeles
Summary Corrective Action Plan

Signature: 	Date: October 13, 2021
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Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY	
Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability.	
<input type="checkbox"/> No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this department.	
Name: (Risk Management Inspector General) Destiny Castro	
Signature: 	Date: 09/13/2021

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CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Claudia Chavez v. County of Los Angeles et al.
CASE NUMBER	2:19-cv-10735-JAK-RAO
COURT	United States District Court, Central District of California
DATE FILED	December 19, 2019
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Health Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 250,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Lisa Ells, Esq. and Caroline Jackson, Esq. Rosen, Bien, Galvan & Grunfeld, LLP
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Natasha Mosley, Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>Claudia Chavez, who is hearing impaired, went to the Emergency Department at LAC+USC Medical Center, and was admitted for surgery. During her stay, hospital personnel communicated with Ms. Chavez by using her mother as a sign language interpreter, with some initial assistance via writings and drawings.</p> <p>Ms. Chavez filed a lawsuit against the County of Los Angeles in federal court alleging discrimination and violation of her civil rights and federal and State laws requiring that timely and appropriate interpreter services be offered to persons who are hearing impaired. She further alleges that because LAC+USC Medical Center personnel failed to offer or provide her with a qualified American Sign Language interpreter, she was not aware of the care that she received, and unable to effectively communicate with hospital staff and participate in her in care, as compared to nondisabled patients.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 88,812
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 9,983



Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for 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:	December 31, 2016
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p>Claudia Chavez, who is deaf, presented to the Emergency Department at LAC+USC Medical Center. Plaintiff was admitted and underwent surgery. During plaintiff's three-day hospitalization, hospital personnel primarily communicated with plaintiff by using her mother as a sign language interpreter and through written communications.</p> <p>Plaintiff filed a lawsuit against the County of Los Angeles in federal court for discrimination and violation of her civil rights. Plaintiff alleges LAC+USC Medical Center personnel failed to offer or provide her with a qualified American Sign Language interpreter and she was not afforded the level of effective communication that is substantially equal to that afforded to nondisabled patients. Plaintiff alleges she was denied an equal opportunity to participate in the medical care and services she received at LAC+USC Medical Center.</p>

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

Lack of assessment regarding the need for, and provision of, an American Sign Language interpreter.

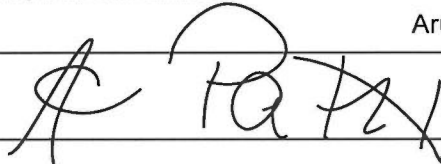
2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:
(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

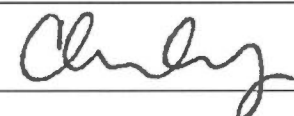
- The Department of Health Services (DHS) updated annual training materials to standardize and provide clarification regarding the requirements to offer and provide, as needed, qualified interpreter services.
- DHS updated patient "Point-To-Your-Language" reference materials to reflect the availability of sign language interpreter services.
- DHS enacted improvements in the process to obtain interpretive services.
- DHS developed an electronic form for staff to utilize to request translation services.
- DHS implemented a process to utilize interpretive services during tele-health visits.
- DHS expanded video remote interpreting units to all ambulatory care locations.
- A DHS workgroup was created to identify and implement improvements in the electronic medical record that more clearly identifies and communicates a patient's interpretive needs.
- DHS hosted a department-wide virtual training led by staff from the US Department of Health and Human Service's Office for Civil Rights regarding the American with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- DHS developed an online, enduring training program, regarding effective communication for patients who are deaf or hard of hearing.

- DHS transitioned to an electronic signature informed consent process that incorporates documentation of the use of interpreters. An accompanying 'job aide' was created and shared across DHS outlining the process for documenting interpreter use during the informed consent process.
- A DHS-wide virtual meeting was held regarding bridging the gaps in communication with the deaf community.
- Signage for video remote interpreter (VRI) devices was updated to provide instructions on the use of the VRI devices and how to obtain assistance for any difficulties encountered during their use.
- The facility updated their policies regarding interpreter services and provided staff training regarding those policies.
- All appropriate personnel actions were taken.

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)	
Arun Patel	
Signature: 	Date: 9/8/2021

Name: (Department Head)	
Christina R Ghaly	
Signature: 	Date: 9/9/2021

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: 09/08/2021

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 15, 2021

1. Call to Order.

The meeting of the Los Angeles County Claims Board was called to order at 9:40 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: Kevin Engelen, Yuan Chang, Jonathan McCaverty, Nicole Rommero, Eduardo Montelongo, Kent Sommer, Richard Bloom, and Rosanne Wong; Department of Mental Health: Connie Draxler; Department of Public Health: Nichole Alcaraz; Sheriff's Department: Melynie Rivers, Shanese Winfrey, Jason Skeen, Brian Yanagi, and Tracy Stewart; Probation Department: Mark Garcia; Department of Human Resources: Maggie Martinez; Department of Health Services: Karen Nunn; District Attorney's Office: Sharon Woo, and Dorinne Jordan; Department of Children and Family Services: Armand Montiel; Outside Counsel: Geoffrey Sheldon, and Rickey Ivie.

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 9:41 a.m., the Chair convened the meeting into closed session to discuss the items listed as 4(a) through 4(h).

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 12:02 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. Diane Earle, et al. v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCP02645**

This lawsuit alleges that the Los Angeles County Office of the Public Guardian failed to timely file a parent/child exemption form at the time of plaintiff's mother's death.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$23,032.94.

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

**b. Lydia Buford, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19AVCVOQ244**

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

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. Allen Laframboise v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV41524**

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

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$92,500.

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

**d. Krystal Reyes as Guardian Ad Litem for I.R. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:19-CV-5209-GW-KS and 2:20-CV-40471**

This lawsuit alleges that plaintiff's civil rights were violated while she was under the supervision of the Probation Department at the Eastlake Central Juvenile Hall.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of this matter in the amount of \$220,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Steve Robles, and Arlene Barrera
Noes: 1 – Adrienne Byers

**e. Maria Lopez v. UCLA Harbor Medical Group
Los Angeles Superior Court, Case No. 20STCV22953**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the Department of Health Services was subjected to disability discrimination, failure to accommodate, and failure to prevent discrimination.

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

f. Claim of Richard Doyle

This matter concerns allegations that an employee of the District Attorney's office was subjected to retaliation; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$800,000.

Action Taken:

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

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

**g. Alexa Stubblefield v. Los Angeles County
Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 20STCV08446**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an applicant for employment with both the Department of Children and Family Services and the Department of Mental Health was subjected to disability discrimination, unlawful medical inquiries, and failure to accommodate.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of this matter in the amount of \$250,000.

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

**h. Los Angeles Times Communications LLC v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BS172865**

This lawsuit involves the production of records by the Sheriff's Department under the California Public Records Act.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of this matter in the amount of \$265,000.

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

5. Approval of the Minutes of the November 1, 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 12:11 p.m.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

By  _____
Derek Stane