



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

CLAIMS BOARD

500 WEST TEMPLE STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2713

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Oscar Valdez
Office of the Auditor-Controller
Destiny Castro
Chief Executive Office
Adrienne M. Byers
Office of the County Counsel

NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA

The Los Angeles County Claims Board will hold a regular meeting on **Monday, December 2, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.**, at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Sixth Floor, Conference Room C, Los Angeles, California 90012. Members of the public who would like to listen to the open session of the meeting or would like to provide public comment may call (323) 776-6996, then enter ID 434 403 092# at 9:30 a.m. on December 2, 2024.

Reports of actions taken in Closed Session. The Los Angeles County Claims Board will report actions taken on any Closed Session Items on Monday, December 2, 2024, at approximately 10:50 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 434 403 092# at 10:50 a.m. on December 2, 2024. Please note that these are approximate start times 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 or by mail to: Attention: Los Angeles County Claims Board, Executive Office, County Counsel, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California, 90012.

Written public comment or documentation must be submitted no later than 12:00 p.m. on Friday, November 29, 2024. 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.

If you wish to address the Los Angeles County Claims Board in person, you may come to the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California, 90012, and enter on the Second Floor. Please advise the security guard station personnel that you would like to attend the public portion of the Claims Board meeting and a security guard will escort you to the Sixth Floor where you will be assisted.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment is limited to the specific items on the agenda and general public comment is limited to subject matters within the jurisdiction of the Claims Board.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: The Agenda and any supporting documents will be posted at <https://lacounty.gov/newsroom/public-information/los-angeles-county-claims-board/> and can be provided upon request. Please submit requests for supporting documents to claimsboard@counsel.lacounty.gov.

If you would like more information, please contact Claims Board Secretary Laura Z. Salazar at lzsalazar@counsel.lacounty.gov or Raina Mey at rmey@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 (Government Code section 54956.9, subdivision (a)).

- a. Samuel Lima-Medina, et al. v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCV00538

This medical malpractice lawsuit arises from the death of a patient who fell while hospitalized at Los Angeles General Medical Center; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$375,000.

[See Supporting Documents](#)

- b. Non-Litigated Claim of Saul Quezada

This medical malpractice claim concerns allegations that MLK-Outpatient Center negligently performed surgery on Claimant resulting in injuries; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$411,649.

[See Supporting Documents](#)

- c. Non-Litigated Claims of Ruth Torres

This claim against the Sheriff's Department seeks compensation for property damage to a vehicle allegedly caused by Norwalk Station deputies during a deputy-involved shooting; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$32,351.40.

- d. Maritza Flores v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV29532

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Sheriff's Department deputy; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$39,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- e. Blanca Medel Munoz v. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23TRCV02156

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Sheriff's Department deputy; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$50,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

- f. Susan Cox v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV16834

This dangerous condition of public property lawsuit arises from alleged injuries Plaintiff sustained from a fall that occurred on a pedestrian ramp; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$35,000.

[See Supporting Document](#)

4. Approval of the Minutes of the November 18, 2024, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

[See Supporting Document](#)

5. Adjournment.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Samuel Lima-Medina, et al. vs. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	23STCV00538
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	January 10, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Health Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 375,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Sharona Eslamboly-Hakim, Esq. Law Offices of Sharona Eslamboly Hakim
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	GEORGINA GLAVIANO Deputy County Counsel Health Services Division DAVID WEISS, ESQ. Law Offices of David Weiss
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a lawsuit alleging medical negligence/wrongful death, general negligence, and survival action arising out of the injury and subsequent death of Elida Mendez-Ibarra at Los Angeles General Medical Center. Ms. Mendez-Ibarra died on February 1, 2022, after suffering a fall from her bed on January 12, 2022. Plaintiff is decedent's husband, Samuel Lima-Medina, individually, and as the successor-in-interest to the Estate of Elida Mendez-Ibarra.</p> <p>Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of this matter is warranted.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 23,725
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 265



Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for 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:	January 12, 2022
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	This is a lawsuit alleging medical negligence/wrongful death, general negligence, and survival action arising out of the injury and subsequent death of E.M.-I. at Los Angeles General Medical Center. E.M.-I. died on February 1, 2022 after suffering a fall from her bed on January 12, 2022. Plaintiff is decedent's husband, S.L.-M., individually, and as the successor-in-interest to the Estate of E.M.-I. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of this matter is warranted.

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


Brain injury and death resulting from a fall while hospitalized.


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

- All appropriate personnel actions were taken.
- Staff were educated on the use of pressure relieving mattresses.
- Staff were educated on patient fall risks, and post-fall assessments and treatment.
- DHS is reviewing data related to falls that result in harm.
- The triage processes for STAT CT requests were evaluated.
- A protocol was developed related to timing of CT scans.
- DHS developed imaging exam prioritization and turn-around-time goals.


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, MD, JD	
Signature: 	Date: 11/13/2024

Name: (Department Head) Christina Ghaly, MD	
Signature: 	Date: 11/18/2024

Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY
Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this department.

Name: (Risk Management Inspector General) Betty Karmirlian, Acting Risk Management Inspector General	
Signature: 	Date: 11/19/2024

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Non-Litigated Claim of Saul Quezada
CASE NUMBER	None
COURT	None
DATE FILED	None
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Health Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 350,000 plus assumption of the Medi-Cal lien in the amount of \$61,649
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	None
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Narbeh Bagdasarian Principal Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	Mr. Quezada claims that the County negligently performed a a complicated hernia repair procedure on April 14, 2023 and that he required additional surgery due to the County's negligence. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of this matter is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 0
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 0



Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for 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:	April 14, 2023
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	On April 14, 2023, A 58 year old male patient underwent a complicated hernia repair procedure at Martin Luther King, Junior - Outpatient Center. After being discharged, the patient experienced abdominal pain. The following day, the patient went to an outside facility where it was discovered that he had suffered a bowel perforation as a result of the hernia repair procedure. The patient had to undergo two surgical procedures to repair the perforation.

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The surgeon relied on imaging reports from a non-DHS hospital. Actual images of these studies were not available to the surgeon for review. The surgeon could have taken steps to obtain the images or should have obtained additional imaging before scheduling the surgery. • During the surgery, the surgeon became aware that the surgery was technically more complex than anticipated. The surgeon should have considered transferring the patient to a hospital for observation after completion of the surgery. • The surgeon did not document pertinent past medical history and past surgical history in the H&P note on 6/1/22. Specifically, the surgeon did not document the date of the preceding appendectomy performed at the MLK Community Hospital. <p>Additional findings addressed in the CAP: The ASC nursing protocol requires nurses to call the patient for a follow-up check within 72 hours or the next business day after a weekend or holiday following surgery or a procedure. When the patient does not answer the call, the protocol required nurses to send a written follow up reminder via mail.</p>
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2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:
(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using the Just Culture evaluation process, all appropriate personnel actions were taken including formal counseling. Additional remediation includes monitoring the surgeon including random audits of the providers notes to ensure that the surgeon reviews outside images and medical records when indicated. • The ASC Nursing Protocol for post operative follow-up was updated. If the nurse is unable to reach the patient on their phone, an additional attempt is to be made to the patient's emergency contact.
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3. Are the corrective actions addressing department-wide system issues?


County of Los Angeles
Summary Corrective Action Plan

- 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, MD, JD	
Signature: 	Date: 10/31/24

Name: (Department Head) Christina Ghaly, MD	
Signature: 	Date: 11/14/2024

Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY
Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this department.

Name: (Risk Management Inspector General) Betty Karmirlian, Acting Risk Management Inspector General	
Signature: 	Date: 11/19/2024

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Maritza Flores vs. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	22STCV29532
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	September 12, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 39,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Mauro Fiore, Jr., Esq. FIORE LEGAL, INC.
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	LaTasha N. Corry, Esq. Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This lawsuit arises from a vehicle collision that occurred on September 15, 2022, when a Deputy Sheriff made an unsafe lane change and collided into Plaintiff's vehicle causing injuries and damages.</p> <p>Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 14,395
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 8,069

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Blanca Medel Munoz vs. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, et al.
CASE NUMBER	23TRCV02156
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	November 5, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 50,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Anita Keshishyan, Esq. JT Legal Group
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Kevin J. Engalien Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	This case occurred from a traffic collision involving Plaintiff, Blanca Medel Munoz and Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Deputy, Lizandro Cifuentes. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 17,387
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 1,219

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Susan Cox vs County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	22STCV16834
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	May 20, 2022
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Parks and Recreation
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 35,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Samer Habbas, Esq. Law Offices of Samer Habbas & Associates, Inc., PC
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Michael J. Gordon Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On May 20, 2021, Plaintiff Susan Cox fell out of her wheelchair while ascending the pedestrian ramp to the South Coast Botanical Garden in the City of Palos Verdes Estates. Plaintiff alleges the pedestrian ramp was a dangerous condition of public property that caused her injuries for which she seeks compensation.</p> <p>Given the risk and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$35,000 is warranted.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 54,275
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 4,077

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

November 18, 2024

1. Call to Order.

The meeting of the Los Angeles County Claims Board was called to order at 9:37 a.m. The meeting was held virtually with Claims Board Chair Destiny Castro, Claims Board Member Oscar Valdez, Claims Board Member Adrienne M. Byers, and Claims Board Secretary Laura Z. Salazar participating in person at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Sixth Floor, Conference Room C, Los Angeles, California 90012.

All other participants at the Claims Board meeting appeared virtually: Millicent L. Rolon, Richard Hsueh, Kevin Engeliem, and Melissa McCaverty appeared for the Office of the County Counsel. Deputy Nancy K. Madarasz, Lieutenant Tania A. Giggles, Lieutenant Jennifer M. Roth, Commander Rick O. Rector, Lieutenant Thomas V. Kim, Commander Robert L. Jones II, Captain Sandra J. Lucio, and Commander Oscar O. Barragan appeared for the Sheriff's Department. Kevin Lee appeared for the Department of Public Health. Assistant Fire Chief Brian Martin appeared for the Fire Department. Anush Gambaryan and Brian Mejia appeared for the Department of Parks and Recreation. Marina Samson appeared for Ivie McNeill Wyatt Purcell & Diggs.

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 member of the public appeared in person or on the public teleconference phone line to address the Claims Board.

3. Closed Session – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Government Code section 54956.9, subdivision (a)).

At 9:37 a.m., Claims Board Chair Destiny Castro convened the meeting in closed session to discuss the items listed below as 4(a) through 4(e).

4. Report on Actions Taken in Closed Session.

No member of the public was present on the teleconference phone line to hear the reportable actions of the Claims Board.

At 10:50 a.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session to report the actions taken in closed session as follows:

a. Michael D. Simpson v. County of Los Angeles, et al. United States District Court Case No. 2:21-cv-04403

This federal civil rights lawsuit arises out of the fatal deputy-involved shooting of Plaintiff's son.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(a) in the amount of \$800,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

**b. Hannah Allison, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
United States District Court Case No. 2:21-cv-06171**

This federal civil rights lawsuit concerns allegations of false arrest and arises from Plaintiffs' participation in an unlawful assembly that took place on June 3, 2020, on County property.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(b) in the amount of \$100,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

**c. Tomas Leon v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22STCV13893**

This personal injury lawsuit arises from a fall that occurred as Plaintiff attempted to enter a Department of Public Health building in Baldwin Park.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(c) in the amount of \$85,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

**d. Haik Shabazian v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 22AVCV00239**

This lawsuit arises from injuries Plaintiff allegedly sustained in a traffic collision involving a Fire Department employee.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors settlement of Item 4(d) in the amount of \$130,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

**e. Maria Felix Garcia v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 21STCV23078**

This dangerous condition of public property lawsuit arises from an alleged trip and fall that occurred at Veterans Park.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of Item 4(e) in the amount of \$45,000.

Vote: Ayes: 2 – Destiny Castro, and Oscar Valdez
Noes: 1 – Adrienne M. Byers

5. Approval of the Minutes of the November 4, 2024, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:


The Claims Board approved the Minutes of the November 4, 2024, meeting.

Vote: Ayes: 3 – Oscar Valdez, Adrienne M. Byers, and Destiny Castro

6. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLAIMS BOARD

By 
Laura Z. Salazar
Claims Board Secretary