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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
313 N. Figueroa, Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 240-7738

August 14, 2002

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDED REDUCTIONS TO SERVICES AT HIGH DESERT HOSPITAL, 11 HEALTH CENTERS, FOUR SCHOOL-BASED CLINICS, AND CERTAIN CLINICAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES (All Districts) (3 Votes)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve the Department of Health Services' recommendation to reduce the following services:

- Inpatient and outpatient services at High Desert Hospital.
 - Alhambra, Azusa, Bell Gardens, Florence-Firestone, Imperial Heights, Lawndale, North Hollywood, Norwalk, Pico Rivera, San Antonio, and Tujunga Health Centers.
 - Gardena, Kennedy, Pacoima, and Vaughn School-Based Clinics.
 - Sexually-transmitted disease clinical services at Burke Health Center; tuberculosis, sexually-transmitted disease, and immunization services at Central Health Center, sexually-transmitted disease, immunization, and communicable disease triage at Curtis Tucker Health Center; immunization and communicable disease triage at Glendale Health Center; tuberculosis, sexually-transmitted disease, and immunization services at Hollywood-Wilshire Health Center; tuberculosis, sexually-transmitted disease, and immunization services at Monrovia Health Center; immunization and communicable disease triage services at Pacoima Health Center; tuberculosis and immunization services Pomona Health Center; tuberculosis, sexually-transmitted disease, and immunization services at South Health Center; sexually-transmitted disease, immunization, and communicable disease triage services at Torrance Health Center; and, sexually-transmitted disease, immunization, and communicable disease triage services at Whittier Health Center.
2. Instruct the Department to conduct further evaluation and negotiations with the State Department of Corrections and health care providers in the Antelope Valley regarding increasing skilled nursing

capacity at High Desert Hospital.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

On June 26, 2002, the Board of Supervisors voted to instruct the Department of Health Services to prepare Beilenson notices and schedule a Beilenson Hearing to implement the immediate service reductions contained in the Department's recommendations regarding the reconfiguration of the County-operated health care delivery system. These immediate reductions include the elimination of inpatient and outpatient services at High Desert Hospital, closure of 11 health centers and four school-based clinics, and the elimination of certain clinical public health services.

It is important to note that public health services are not subject to the requirements of the Beilenson Act; their inclusion in the notice and hearing is to allow for public discussion of the Department's recommended actions.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

The reduction of services at High Desert Hospital are estimated to result in an average monthly savings of \$4,672,000.

The closure of the 11 health centers is expected to result in an average savings of \$2,989,000 per month. The closure of the four school-based clinics are anticipated to save an average of \$22,000 per month.

The reductions in clinical public health services are estimated to result in an average monthly savings of \$231,000.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

Under Section 1442.5 of the California Health and Safety Code (Beilenson Act), local governments are required to post notice of recommended reductions in health care services and to hold a hearing to receive public comment about the recommended service reductions. The subject of the August 20, 2002, Beilenson Hearing will be the proposed reduction in services at High Desert Hospital, 11 health care centers, four school-based clinics, and certain clinical public health services.

CONTRACTING PROCESS:

Contracting process requirements are not applicable to the Beilenson Hearing.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS):

High Desert Hospital

It is estimated that the elimination of inpatient services at High Desert Hospital will result in an average total reduction of 70 beds and affect an estimated 135 persons per month. The affected inpatient beds at High Desert Hospital break down as follows:

Inpatient Services	Est. Average Reduction in Beds	Est. Average Persons Affected per Month
Acute Medicine	19	82
Surgical Acute	4	20
Intensive Care	4	17
Skilled Nursing	34	10
Skilled Nursing – TB	9	6
Total	70	135

The outpatient services curtailments would eliminate an estimated 5,040 visits and affect 2,082 individuals on a monthly basis.

While the Department is recommending that the Board move forward with the hospital's closure as an acute inpatient facility, DHS believes and is recommending, based upon its ongoing discussions with representatives of the Antelope Valley health care provider community, that further pursuance of increased skilled nursing capacity is warranted. This would include continued negotiations with the State Department of Corrections, as well as with the various medical group practices and private hospitals in the community.

Health Centers

The Department is recommending closure of the following 11 health centers. The estimated impact of these closures is as follows:

Recommended Closure	Est. Average Reduction of Monthly Visits	Est. Average Persons Affected per Month
Alhambra Health Center	1,810	1,497
Azusa Health Center	1,651	1,399
Bell Gardens Health Center	827	722
Florence-Firestone Health Center	1,782	1,782
Imperial Heights Health Center	3,461	3,461
Lawndale Health Center	1,491	1,491
North Hollywood Health Center	2,949	2,123
Norwalk Health Center	1,112	368
Pico Rivera Health Center	1,125	1,057
San Antonio Health Center	2,866	2,866
Tujunga Health Center	824	593

School Based Clinics

The four school-based clinics recommended for closure and the estimated impact is:

Recommended Closure	Est. Average Reduction of Monthly Visits	Est. Average Persons Affected per Month
Gardena High School-Based Clinic	164	71
Kennedy/Monroe School-Based Clinic	54	39
Pacoima School-Based Clinic	49	35
Vaughn Street School-Based Clinic	46	33

Clinical Public Health Services

The Department is recommending the reduction of certain clinical public health services, which include immunization, sexually transmitted disease, tuberculosis, and communicable disease triage. The Department is not recommending the closure of the facilities at which these services are provided, but rather curtailing the level of services in each of these clinical areas.

It is important to note that public health services are not subject to the requirements of the Beilenson Act;

their inclusion is to allow public discussion of this action.

Recommended Reduction	Est. Average Reduction of Monthly Visits	Est. Average Persons Affected per Month
Burke Health Center Sexually-transmitted disease (STD)	90	90
Central Health Center STD, tuberculosis, immunization	498	176
Curtis Tucker Health Center STD, immunization, comm. disease	2,104	999
Glendale Health Center Immunization, comm. disease	1,498	905
Hollywood-Wilshire Health Center STD, immunization	768	287
Monrovia Health Center STD, tuberculosis, immunization	695	244
Pacoima Health Center Immunization, comm. disease	1,157	976
Pomona Health Center Tuberculosis, immunization	763	235
South Health Center STD, tuberculosis, immunization	1,221	503
Torrance Health Center STD, immunization, comm. disease	1,973	1,215
Whittier Health Center STD, immunization, comm. disease	1,904	1,217

Each Supervisor
August 14, 2002
Page 6

CONCLUSION:

The Department is recommending that your Board hold the required public hearing, and upon completion of this hearing, approve the proposed reductions in services at High Desert Hospital, 11 health centers, four school-based clinics, and clinical public health services.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas L. Garthwaite, MD
Director and Chief Medical Officer

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c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors