Health Services
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

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To ensure access to high-quality, patient-centered, cost-effective health care to Los Angeles County residents through direct services at DHS facilities and through collaboration with community and university partners.

October 4, 2011

TO: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: Mitchell H. Katz, M.D.
Director of Health Services

SUBJECT: **ENSURING CONTINUITY OF CARE FOR RYAN WHITE BENEFICIARIES**

On September 20, 2011 your Board directed the Departments of Health Services (DHS), Public Health (DPH) and Mental Health (DMH) to 1) Notify the Board of Supervisors (Board) before any provider agreements or amendments are finalized; 2) Provide bi-weekly reports to the Board on the status of County efforts to obtain a Medicaid Waiver amendment to offset the additional County costs; and 3) Provide the Board offices with a written Ryan White patient care transition plan and monthly reports on efforts to ensure continuity of care.

PROVIDER AGREEMENT NOTIFICATION

On September 30, 2011, DHS notified your Board of its intent to execute amendments to existing Healthy Way LA (HWLA) agreements and enter into new HWLA agreements with seven Ryan White providers that are not currently part of the HWLA network. DPH and DMH will also notify your Board in advance of executing provider agreements related to this matter.

EFFORTS TO OBTAIN MEDICAID WAIVER AMENDMENT

In early September 2011, DHS, the San Francisco Department of Public Health, and the California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems provided the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) with a proposal to modify the current California Medicaid Waiver to address issues associated with the migration of Ryan White clients to the Low Income Health Program (LIHP) known as the Healthy Way LA in Los Angeles County. The Waiver amendment would provide supplemental payments to LIHPs which develop specific HIV Transition Plans that assure the careful management of HIV clients into LIHPs to avoid disruption of care. Financing would come from an estimated increase in available Waiver budget neutrality room.

During the week of September 19th, DHCS had an initial conference call with staff from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) about the Waiver amendment. According to DHCS, the meeting was productive and no

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major programmatic issues were raised. However, DHCS did indicate CMS approval of the amendment will depend on CMS' assessment of the available budget neutrality room and the use of available funding for this purpose. DHS will continue to monitor this issue and report any new developments.

RYAN WHITE PATIENT CARE TRANSITION PLAN

DHS, DMH and DPH continue to refine their transition plans and will provide the first monthly report on these plans to your Board by October 20, 2011.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please let me know.

MHK:ws

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors