



Pacific Clinics
ADVANCING BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE

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May 29, 2015

The Honorable Michael D. Antonovich
Mayor, Los Angeles County
5th Supervisorial District
500 West Temple Street, Room 869
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mayor Antonovich,

Pacific Clinics is responding to the Chief Executive Office's draft report about the possible creation of a health agency to oversee the Departments of Health Services, Mental Health, and Public Health. Pacific Clinics remains in full support of the Board of Supervisors' overarching goal that Los Angeles County residents need better integrated care, particularly for underserved communities. While the report outlines the potential advantages related to a health agency and briefly acknowledges stakeholder concerns, it fails to dedicate a separate section on children and youth. Los Angeles County is lauded for its rich cultural, linguistic, and ethnic diversity. The CEO's draft report does not include a strategic framework for a vision to offer improved care to underserved and underrepresented communities under the health agency model. Lastly, we are troubled by the few lines dedicated to describing how contracted community-based organizations significantly enhance the county's "network" to provide integrated care to constituents. In the absence of a comprehensive report which includes a consideration of all proposed models, the Board may find it challenging to determine how to proceed. For these reasons, we urge the Board to take as much time as necessary to ensure a deliberative process with full stakeholder engagement.

Pacific Clinics appreciates the opportunity to outline its concerns and recommendations. We look forward to working with the Chief Executive Officer and the Board of Supervisors to ensure that constituents receive improved and timely integrated care services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Susan Mandel", written in a cursive style.

Susan Mandel, Ph.D.
President
SM:ww

C: The Honorable Sheila Kuehl, 3rd District
The Honorable Don Knabe, 4th District
The Honorable Mark Ridley-Thomas, 2nd District
The Honorable Hilda Solis, 1st District