

# Los Angeles County Coalition for Women & Health Reform

May 4, 2015

Office of Health Care Integration

The Los Angeles County Coalition for Women and Health Reform (LACCWHR) understands that the LA County Board of Supervisors recently approved in concept the consolidation of the Departments of Health Services (DHS), Public Health (DPH) and Mental Health (DMH) under a single health agency. Each department performs distinct functions that impact the health and safety of the communities we advocate for and serve, and each plays an important role in improving health and wellness.

Integration must enhance care to vulnerable communities that rely on Public Health, Mental Health and Health Services. Women, who are more likely to live in poverty than men, assume most of the responsibility for making the health and medical decisions for their families. LACCWHR is concerned that current services provided by separate departments will be cut or eliminated, leaving women and vulnerable families at risk. Consumers and community stakeholders are also very concerned about possible disruption of services. Whatever the model, effective people and adequate staffing are critical to the continued provision of services that our communities rely on.

While patient interests are the priority in Integration, key prevention programs in Public Health and Mental Health serve entire communities. Any merger must foster improved population health, understanding that patients are not just individuals who enter County clinics and hospitals, but all of the communities outside County doors. Integration should advance a 'Health in All Policies' approach County-wide.

We urge the expanded engagement of stakeholders before changes are made. LACCWHR respectfully requests to become a stakeholder in this process to better understand and highlight the impact this consolidation will have on women's health and to work toward addressing improvements of women's health in LA County on the whole.

We look forward to being formally included in this process as a stakeholder group. Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and requests. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach us by contacting Marisol Franco via email at [Marisol@clrj.org](mailto:Marisol@clrj.org).

Sincerely,

Marisol Franco

Coalition Member  
The Los Angeles County Coalition for Women and Health Reform

***About The Los Angeles County Coalition for Women and Health Reform (LACCWHR)***

*The LACCWHR was formed to ensure that the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) meets the comprehensive need of women throughout Los Angeles County. Since the Fall of 2010, the coalition has sponsored an annual community dialogue with a diverse coalition of community leaders, providers and health advocates from throughout Los Angeles County to examine how health care reform implementation is impacting women differently based on race, ethnicity, sexuality, class, ability to pay, age, and immigration status.*