Health Care Council Meeting
February 7, 2020
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

1. Welcome and Self-Introductions

2. LA County Health Discussion with Dr. Christina Ghaly

3. Q&A

4. CIRM Presentation with Jonathan Thomas

5. Q&A

6. Action Item:
   - Health Care Policy Council 2020 Guiding Principles

**Thanks to Pacific Federal for once again providing our breakfast!**

Next Council Meeting
April 3, 2020
Dr. Ghaly was appointed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors as the Director of the Department of Health Services (DHS) on September 25, 2018 after having served in the role as Acting Director since October 2017. In this capacity, Dr. Ghaly has had responsibility for overseeing the operations of the County’s four public hospitals and 23 outpatient clinics. She leads strategic, operational, and clinical/financial initiatives critical to DHS’ financial health and continued transformation in an era of health reform.

Dr. Ghaly previously served as Chief Operations Officer for DHS from 2016 until her permanent appointment as Director. Her previous roles within DHS also include serving as the Deputy Director for Strategy and Operations and as the Interim Chief Executive Officer at Olive View – UCLA Medical Center and LAC+USC Medical Center.

In 2015, Dr. Ghaly served in a temporary role as the Director of Health Care Integration for the County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office. This position was created to lead an assessment regarding the potential creation of a health care agency, integrating the Departments of Health Services, Mental Health (DMH) and Public Health (DPH). The Los Angeles County Health Agency was formally created in November 2015.

Dr. Ghaly attended Harvard Medical School and completed a residency in internal medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Ghaly currently sees patients in the urgent care and on the inpatient medicine service at LAC+USC Medical Center and Olive View – UCLA Medical Center, respectively.
Jonathan Thomas ("JT") has been Chair of the governing Board since June 2011. Prior to that he was a Co-Founding Partner at Saybrook Capital ("Saybrook"), an investment banking and private equity firm based in Santa Monica, California.

Long interested in the biological sciences, JT majored in Biology and History at Yale, where he graduated summa cum laude. As a George C. Marshall Scholar at Oxford, he then earned a PhD with a medical focus in Commonwealth History. He subsequently returned to Yale for a JD at the Yale Law School. While there, he retained an involvement with biology by teaching courses on the legal implications of genetic engineering and the impact of disease on history.

He went on to be an investment banker for Ehrlich Bober & Co. (a top-10 Wall Street public finance firm) where, among other things, he led a team that underwrote over $1 billion in various kinds of bonds for the Los Angeles Community College District. He left Ehrlich Bober in 1990 to co-found Saybrook. While with Saybrook, he led an early round of financing for Advanced Cell Technology (now Ocata Therapeutics), which now has two embryonic stem cell-based clinical trials in progress.

In addition to his financing expertise, JT brings legal expertise to help CIRM navigate clinical trials, bilateral collaborative agreements, intellectual property, loan agreements and other legal challenges that confront CIRM on an ongoing basis. His legal experience includes clerking for White House Counsel Lloyd Cutler in the last year of the Carter Administration and also for the Honorable George Mackinnon of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. He later practiced at Munger, Tolles & Olson in Los Angeles.

JT also has a broad knowledge of governmental agencies, having served for seven years each as either member or vice president of the City of Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners and as a member of the Governing Board for the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority. In that latter role, he developed a plan to finance the $2.4 billion expansion of the Corridor rail lines from the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to downtown Los Angeles. Through this government work and his many years in public finance, he has served at various times as underwriter, financial advisor and issuer of a wide range of tax-exempt and taxable bonds.

JT has worked closely with political officials at the federal, state and local level on a variety of projects for over 30 years. He was the chief government liaison to the Governor and State legislature for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors in the PG&E bankruptcy, for whom Saybrook acted as financial advisor in their Chapter 11 proceedings. He has structured a number of public/private partnerships, including the financing for the Dolby (formerly Kodak) Theatre in Hollywood, home to the Academy Awards.

JT has a long-standing commitment to patient advocacy. He spent more than 15 years on the Board of the Crippled Children’s Society of Southern California and served as Chair for four years. The organization, now called AbilityFirst, assists children with spinal cord injuries and mental disabilities that could be targets of stem cell therapies. He is an Honorary member of the AbilityFirst Board.
2020 HEALTH CARE COUNCIL AGENDA

The Health Care Council of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) is a leader in providing the business perspective on key health care issues in our region.

Los Angeles County has the highest number of people covered under Affordable Care Act (ACA) with about 1.5 million residents, 15 percent of the population, now insured either through Medi-Cal or a Covered California plan. And with nearly 600,000 health care jobs in the Los Angeles region, the health care industry is vital not only to the well-being of our residents, but to our businesses, workforce and economy.

In 2020, the Chamber will closely monitor proposed reforms to the nation’s health care system, and continue our advocacy for business-friendly health care policies that increase affordability, protect access to coverage and quality care, create health professional workforce opportunities and generally improve the health of all individuals and businesses.

Influence Affordable Care Act/Health Care Reform Proposals
The Chamber has been an advocate for implementation of the ACA, and will continue to influence proposed changes to the ACA to ensure shared responsibility for health care financing, adequate access to health care providers and reduced overall financial burden on employers. The Chamber also supports reform and innovations in delivery and financing models that strengthen the sustainability of the health care system and improve the quality of care. We will work with the state legislature on policies that seek to provide accessible healthcare for all, while ensuring healthcare providers and systems are properly funded.

Advocate for Policies that Increase Affordability and Efficiency
The Chamber will advocate for policies that address cost drivers which result in escalating health care costs for employers and employees, such as costly benefit mandates, unnecessary administrative burdens, inefficient fee-for-service care and high drug prices. We support options to help businesses manage health care costs, while ensuring that these options do not undermine the success of the ACA Exchanges (Covered California).

Encourage Certainty in Health Care Reform
As we navigate the new world of ‘health care reform’, the Chamber will encourage our leaders to use planning and predictability as cornerstones of their discussions. Regulatory vagueness and ambiguity can impede businesses success, and harm value-based care and the work of Los Angeles’ health care leaders in providing access to quality, affordable health care for individuals and employers.
Support Adequate Access to Health Care Services
The Chamber is committed to supporting broader access to health care services, including mental health parity and addiction equity. Over the past several years, we have supported an expansion of Medicaid and fought for hospitals and providers to receive fair reimbursement rates. We will continue our work to protect and strengthen Los Angeles County’s health care safety net and ensure quality care for all patients. The Chamber will also continue our efforts to promote initiatives aimed at enhancing the health care infrastructure, including strengthening graduate educational programs and the workforce, and enhancing facility accessibility for members of the community who are aging and disabled.

Promote Integrated Health Systems and Innovative Strategies
The Chamber supports a “whole-person” approach to wellness and care, and encourages considerations focused on the social determinants of health, such as the environments in which people are born, live and work. We also encourage innovative strategies and the development of proposals that advance the provision of integrated health care sectors including hospitals, provider groups, health plans, health systems and federally qualified health centers.

Promote Children’s Health
The Chamber strongly supports preserving funding streams for children’s health programs. Health care coverage and prevention of chronic illnesses is critical to ensuring successful educational and physical development in children, and reducing health care costs for businesses and taxpayers. The Chamber will promote business-friendly options to combat obesity, address behavioral health, increase quality oral health access and focus on health education, exercise and healthy foods to ensure our future generations are ready to learn and succeed.