Health Care Council Meeting
November 6, 2015
10 – 11:30 a.m.

1. Welcome and Self Introductions

2. 2016 Priorities for the Assembly Committee on Health

   The Honorable Sebastian Ridley-Thomas
   Committee on Health
   California State Assembly

3. A New Vision for L.A. Care

   John Baackes
   CEO
   L.A. Care Health Plan

4. Closing Remarks (11:25-11:30) - 5 minutes

Next Council Meeting:
TBD - January 2015
(Moving because of the New Year's Holiday)
2016 Priorities for the Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable Ed Hernandez, Chair, Senate Committee on Health (invited)
Sebastian Ridley-Thomas
Assembly Member
California State Assembly

Sebastian Ridley-Thomas was elected in December 2013 to represent California's 54th Assembly District, which includes the Los Angeles County communities of Century City, Culver City, Westwood, Mar Vista, Palms, Baldwin Hills, Windsor Hills, Ladera Heights, View Park, Crenshaw, Leimert Park, Mid City, and West Los Angeles.

Ridley-Thomas previously served as public policy director for State Senator Curren Price. In this capacity, he advised the senator on economic development, transportation, housing, public safety, and local government issues – all of which are of critical importance to constituents in the 54th Assembly District. Ridley-Thomas also worked as a staff member in the district office, where he was responsible for a caseload of 900,000 residents in Greater Los Angeles.

The Assemblymember has also served as legislative consultant to the Senate Select Committee on Procurement, where he worked to ensure small business owners in underserved communities received their fair share of state contracts, and as the political director for the nine-member California Legislative Black Caucus.

Ridley-Thomas is dedicated to finding sensible solutions to the issues facing Los Angeles residents. His commitment to public service was inspired by his mother – Avis Ridley-Thomas, a pioneer in conflict resolution – and his father, Mark Ridley-Thomas, chairman of the L.A. County Board of Supervisors and founder of the community empowerment movement that has become a model for communities nationwide.

Ridley-Thomas received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Morehouse College, where he held several leadership positions. A graduate of the CSU Sacramento Capitol Fellows Program, he trained in mediation and conflict resolution at UC Davis Extension and CSU Dominguez Hills. Ridley-Thomas lives in Los Angeles.
John Baackes
CEO
L.A. Care Health Plan

John Baackes, CEO – L.A. Care Health Plan is Chief Executive Officer of L.A. Care Health Plan, the nation’s largest publicly operated health plan serving more than 1.6 million members. L.A. Care is dedicated to providing access to quality and affordable health care for Los Angeles County residents through a variety of health coverage programs, including Medi-Cal, L.A. Care Covered™, L.A. Care Cal MediConnect Plan, L.A. Care’s Healthy Kids, and PASC-SEIU Homecare Workers Health Care Plan.

Mr. Baackes works collaboratively with the Board of Governors to set the organization’s strategic vision and ensure its successful implementation. He also oversees the day-to-day operations, while guiding L.A. Care through the ever-evolving health care landscape. Additionally, he is responsible for maintaining the integrity, quality and accountability of the health services L.A. Care provides to its members.

Mr. Baackes brings more than 30 years of health care experience. Before joining L.A. Care, he served as president of Philadelphia-based AmeriHealth Caritas VIP Plans where he oversaw the Medicare Advantage business unit. Prior to that position, Mr. Baackes was CEO of Senior Whole Health in Cambridge, MA, a voluntary health care plan for more than 10,000 low-income seniors in Massachusetts and New York.

Throughout his career, Mr. Baackes has served in a number of executive leadership roles across the health care industry, including Senior Vice President for Group Health Incorporated in Albany, NY; President of Kaiser Permanente’s Northeast Division in Latham, NY; and CEO of Community Health Plan, also in Latham. He is also a trustee at Southern Vermont College.

Mr. Baackes holds a bachelor’s degree from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, and is a native of Evanston, IL.