

# ‘Board of Governors

## Executive Community Advisory Committee

### Meeting Minutes – June 8, 2022

1055 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017



**L.A. Care**  
HEALTH PLAN

ECAC Members	RCAC Members/Public	L.A. Care Board of Governors/Senior Staff
<p>Russell Mahler, <i>RCAC 1 Chair</i> ***                      Estela Lara, <i>RCAC 2 Chair</i>                      Cynthia Contreas-Wood, <i>RCAC 3 Chair, ECAC Vice-Chair</i>                      Silvia Poz, <i>RCAC 4 Chair</i>                      Maria Sanchez, <i>RCAC 5 Chair</i>                      Andria McFerson, <i>RCAC 6 Chair</i>                      Fátima Vázquez, <i>RCAC 7 Chair, ECAC Chair</i>                      Ana Romo, <i>RCAC 8 Chair</i>                      Tonya Byrd, <i>RCAC 9 Chair</i>                      Damares O Hernández de Cordero, <i>RCAC 10 Chair</i> *                      Maria Angel Refugio, <i>RCAC 11 Chair</i>                      Deaka McClain, <i>At Large Member</i>                      Lluvia Salazar, <i>At-Large Member</i></p> <p>* <i>Excused Absent</i>    ** <i>Absent</i>                      ***<i>Present with technical issues</i></p>	<p>Pablo De La Puente, Interpreter                      Mary Hernandez-Castellanos, Interpreter                      Isaac Ibarlucea, Interpreter                      Eduardo Kogan, Interpreter                      Alex Mendez, Interpreter                      Katelynn Mory, Closed Captioner                      Ruth Nuno, Interpreter</p> <p>Gisele Brigido, Public                      Carrie Broadus, Public                      Randall Nixon, Public                      Maria Teresa Rebaja, RCAC 1, Public                      Cecilia Cruz, RCAC 9, Public                      Johnny Chua, RCAC 11, Public</p> <p>Felicia Divinity, County of Los Angeles, Public                      Aravinda Edussuriya, County of Los Angeles                      Selwyn Hollins, County of Los Angeles, Public</p>	<p>Hilda Pérez, <i>Member, Board of Governors</i>                      Layla Gonzalez, <i>Advocate, Board of Governors</i>                      John Baackes, <i>Chief Executive Office, L.A. Care</i>                      Richard Seidman, <i>M.D, Chief Medical Officer, L.A. Care</i>                      Miriam Admasu, <i>Department Assistant, CO&amp;E</i>                      Malou Balones, <i>Board Specialist, Board Services</i>                      Kristina Chung, <i>Community Outreach Field Specialist, CO&amp;E</i>                      Idalia De La Torre, <i>Field Specialist Supervisor, CO&amp;E</i>                      Auleria Eakins, <i>Manager, CO&amp;E</i>                      Hilda Herrera, <i>Community Outreach Field Specialist, CO&amp;E</i>                      Linda Merkens, <i>Senior Manager, Board Services</i>                      Frank Meza, <i>Community Outreach Field Specialist, CO&amp;E</i>                      Nicole Moussa, <i>Manager, Technical Information, Pharmacy &amp; Formulary</i>                      Cindy Pozos, <i>Community Outreach Field Specialist, CO&amp;E</i>                      Jose Ricardo Rivas, <i>Community Outreach Field Specialist, CO&amp;E</i>                      Victor Rodriquez, <i>Board Specialist III, Board Services</i>                      Prity Thanki, <i>Local Government Advisor, Government Affairs</i>                      Martin Vicente, <i>Community Outreach Field Specialist, CO&amp;E</i>                      Diane Webber, <i>Product Solutions Manager</i></p>

AGENDA ITEM/PRESENTER	MOTIONS / MAJOR DISCUSSIONS	ACTION TAKEN
<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	<p>Chairperson Fatima Vazquez advised the public to please recheck these directions for updates prior to the start of the meeting.</p> <p>She announced that this meeting will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act, allowing members of the Executive Community Advisory Committee, members of the public and staff to participate via teleconference, because State and Local</p>	

officials are recommending measures to promote social distancing. Accordingly, members of the public should join this meeting via teleconference as follows:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81484744951>

Teleconference Call –In information/Site

Call-in number: 1-415-655-0002 Participants Access Code: 2491 245 5780 (English)

Call-in number: 1-415-655-0002 Participants Access Code: 2488 567 0002 (Spanish)

Members of the Executive Community Advisory Committee or staff may also participate in this meeting via teleconference. The public is encouraged to submit public comments or comments on Agenda items in writing by email to [COEpubliccomments@lacare.org](mailto:COEpubliccomments@lacare.org) or by sending a text or voicemail to (323) 541-7900.

Attendees who log on using the URL above will be able to use “chat” during the meeting for public comment. Attendees must be logged into Zoom to use the “chat” feature. The log in information is at the top of the meeting Agenda. This is a new function during the meeting so public comments can be made live and direct.

1. The “chat” will be available during the public comment periods before each item.
2. To use the “chat” during public comment periods, look at the bottom of the screen for the icon that has the word, “chat” on it.
3. Click on the chat icon. It will open a window.
4. Select “Everyone” in the To: window.
5. Type the public comment in the box.
6. After hitting the enter key, the message is sent and everyone can see it.
7. The chat message, text, voicemail, or email must indicate if the submitter wishes to be identified or remain anonymous, and must also include the name of the item to which the comment relates.
8. L.A. Care staff will read the chat messages for up to three minutes during public comment so people who are on the phone can hear the comment.

Your comments can also be sent by text, voicemail, or email. If we receive your comments by 10:00 a.m. on June 8, 2022, it will be provided to the members of the Executive Community Advisory Committee at the beginning of the meeting. The chat message, text, voicemail, or email must indicate if you wish to be identified or remain anonymous, and must also include the name of the item to which your comment relates. If you do not indicate an Agenda item for your comment, your comment(s) will be read for up to 3 minutes at item VIII Public Comments on the Agenda.

Once the meeting has started public comments should be submitted prior to the time the Chair announces public comments for each agenda item and staff will read those comments for up to three minutes. Chat messages submitted during the public comment period for

each agenda item will be read for up to three minutes. If your public comment agenda is not related to any of the agenda item topics, your public comment will be read for up to 3 minutes at item VIII Public Comments on the agenda.

These are extraordinary circumstances, and the process for public comment is evolving and may change at future meetings. We thank you for your patience.

Please note that there may be delay in the digital transmittal of emails, texts and voicemail. The Chair will announce when public comment period is over for each item. If your public comments are not received on time for the specific agenda item you want to address, your public comments will be read at the public comment section of the agenda.

The purpose of public comment is that it is an opportunity for members of the public to inform the governing body about their views. The Executive Community Advisory Committee appreciates hearing the input as it considers the business on the Agenda.

All votes in a teleconferenced meeting shall be conducted by roll call.

If you are an individual with a disability and need a reasonable modification or accommodation pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act please contact the Community Outreach & Engagement staff prior to the meeting for assistance by text (323) 541-7900 or by email to [COEpubliccomments@lacare.org](mailto:COEpubliccomments@lacare.org).

Goals for today's meeting:

1. Receive an update from L.A. Care's Chief Medical Officer.
2. Receive an update from L.A. Care's Chief Executive Officer.
3. Receive an update from Government Affairs Department.
4. Receive recommendations from the ECAC ad-hoc committee – Disability Awareness Month.
5. Receive recommendations from the ECAC ad-hoc committee – African American Health Disparities.
6. Receive a presentation on the County of Los Angeles Delete the Divide.

Chairperson Vazquez read the ECAC Meeting Ground Rules and Meeting Guidelines.

Meeting Ground Rules

- We treat each other with respect
- We raise our virtual hand icon and wait to be called on
- We lower our virtual hand icon when done speaking
- Only one member speaks at a time
- We speak up when something is wrong or not working: we confront issues not people
- We do not personally attack each other

	<p>Meeting Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ECAC Members will have three (3) minutes to speak on each agenda item</li> <li>• The ECAC Chair can reduce the time to two (2) minutes if time is limited</li> <li>• The three (3) or two (2) minutes allotment will be consecutive and may include questions, comments, and/or anecdotes as long as they fall within the time limit</li> <li>• If time is limited and ECAC members are unable to make a comment or ask a question, the member/s will be asked to forward their comment or question to CO&amp;E staff for follow-up</li> <li>• The response will be recorded in the ECAC meeting minutes for that meeting</li> <li>• The L.A. Care staff schedule to provide an update or present during the ECAC meeting will be timed to ensure they stay within their allotted time.</li> </ul> <p>Chairperson Vazquez called the meeting to order at 10:16 a.m.</p>	
<p><b>APPROVE MEETING AGENDA</b></p>	<p>Chairperson Vazquez advised that Member Ana Romo, <i>RCAC 8 Chair</i>, will not be reporting and the report will be given by Member Andria McFerson, <i>RCAC 6 Chair</i>.</p> <p>Member McFerson stated that she spoke at the Board meeting about getting back to the Brown Act and how comments should be made. Public comments can be after an agenda item is discussed. They need proper input from people that it affects. She noted that there may be people that can't read the material.</p> <p><b>The Agenda for today's meeting was approved with the changes noted above.</b></p>	<p><b>Approved by roll call. 12 AYES (Byrd, Contreas-Wood, Lara, Mahler, McClain, McFerson, Poz, Romo, Salazar, Sanchez, Refugio, Vazquez)</b></p>
<p><b>APPROVE MEETING MINUTES</b></p>	<p>Member Deaka McClain, <i>At Member-Large</i>, noted that on page 13, the sentence where it reads "Human IT (HIT) can reach out to people who don't have that capability", it should read "Can Human IT (HIT) reach out to them?" She noted that it was meant as a question.</p> <p><b>The May 11, 2022 meeting minutes were approved with the corrections noted above.</b></p>	<p><b>Approved by roll call. 12 AYES</b></p>
<p><b>STANDING ITEMS</b></p>		
<p><b>UPDATE FROM CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER</b></p>	<p>Richard Seidman, <i>MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer</i>, reported:</p> <p>He said that the COVID-19 pandemic is not over, and there is still high transmission of the disease. Most people experience mild to moderate infections. Some people, particularly those that are not vaccinated or boosted, are still getting serious disease. If trends continue to increase, there is a chance that the health care delivery system can be overwhelmed. Hospitalizations have gone from 200 per day to 500 per day. He encouraged masking, which is no longer mandatory except in places like healthcare settings and transportation</p>	

hubs. On planes, trains, Ubers, taxis, et cetera, masking is strongly recommended in indoor public places. He still wears a mask in indoor places even though he is vaccinated and has received two booster doses. The new variants are more contagious and people who are vaccinated and boosted can still get infected.

If people get infected, who have a high-risk condition, like obesity, diabetes, heart disease, lung disease, or are pregnant, there are now medications that can be taken by mouth within the first five days of infection that can significantly reduce your risk of serious disease and hospitalization. L.A. Care has information posted on the website. Members can contact their doctor, look on the L.A. Care website or the County's website to find places where they can be tested and treated with these medications. Testing positivity rates are still increasing, and the good news is that deaths have remained relatively stable.

He gave a brief update about the nation's baby formula shortage. The federal government has relaxed the limitations on which formulas people in the Women's, Infant and Children's program (WIC) can buy at stores. They've significantly relaxed the limits so that people have a choice of many more different formulas and that makes the shortages less severe. He encouraged people to reach out to their doctor and look on the L.A. Care website.

#### Monkey Pox

He noted that the Monkey Pox disease is a known disease. It's not new and unknown like COVID-19 was. Monkey pox is nothing like COVID-19 and he asked that people not be overly alarmed by it. There are only about 800 cases worldwide, and most of the cases are in Africa or in Europe. There are 20 cases here in the United States, including five cases known in California. Monkey pox can cause severe disease. There have been no deaths associated with this recent outbreak anywhere outside of Africa. It can cause fever, fatigue, muscle weakness, muscle pain and a characteristic rash. Most of the cases have been in men who have sex with men, but it is not exclusive to that community of people.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

**Submitted by Elizabeth Cooper, RCAC 2 Member, on June 7, 2022 via phone call:**  
*Good morning Dr. Seidman, my name is Elizabeth Cooper, I would like to ask you to address the issues of the booster shot for the seniors and people with disabilities, will there be a potential side effects for future booster shots, if this population chooses to receive the booster shots in the future.*

Dr. Seidman responded that booster shots are being recommended for college students and groups above age 12 now. What's incredible about these new generation of vaccines and the vaccines for COVID-19, is that the side effects from the vaccines have been mild and short-term. The way he looks at the decisions about getting vaccinated or getting boosted is

	<p>he knows the absolute risk of not getting vaccinated and not getting boosted. That includes getting COVID-19 and a risk of potentially dying from it, particularly for seniors and people with disabilities, depending on the disability. Those that are vaccinated and boosted have lower risk.</p> <p>Member McFerson thanked Dr. Seidman his report and she noted the information was very beneficial. She asked how \$304 million in Governor Gavin Newsom’s budget will make health coverage more affordable for families. She stated that she commented during the Board meeting that L.A. Care is now working with the Affordable Housing Authority. She volunteered today at a hospital to give out food to the community, in an area where people will really need food and they don't know how they would eat from day-to-day. She noted that there were sick people that couldn't go to work, just all kinds of different things having to do with disabled people and seniors. She suggested that there be someone there to assist people with signing up for Medi-Cal. She asked Dr. Seidman about his thoughts on that. Dr. Seidman responded that Mr. Baackes will be speaking about that during his agenda item.</p> <p>Member Cynthia Contreas-Wood, <i>RCAC 3 Chair</i>, thank Dr. Seidman for presenting great information. She wonders if he has a sense of what it will look like in the future for how the vaccine will be administered, also for people that are immunocompromised. Everyone is trying to figure out what the ultimate vaccine will be. She asked if he has a sense if it will be every six months potentially or maybe every year. Dr. Seidman responded that he is unsure. There is much research being done and he expects that a periodic booster, similar to the annual flu shot against influenza. The scientists are working towards an annual booster or an annual vaccine against COVID-19. There is also research being done about the sort of vaccine that wouldn't be specific to COVID-19 or any specific variant of COVID-19, but would be effective against a much broader class of coronaviruses. That doesn't exist yet but the science is working on developing more effective vaccines that will provide protection for a longer period of time. He encouraged people to get the vaccines that are available now if they are eligible.</p>	
<p><b>UPDATE FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER</b></p>	<p>John C. Baackes, <i>Chief Executive Officer</i>, gave the following update:</p> <p>Gun Violence Resolution (<i>A copy of the resolution can be obtained from CO&amp;E.</i>)</p> <p>Mr. Baackes spoke about L.A. Care's response to the horrific gun violence in the United States. L.A. Care, and particularly he and Dr. Seidman, think this is a public health issue. The issue frequently is side-tracked over defending the Second Amendment when addressing it as a public health issue. At the Board Meeting last week a resolution was considered that calls for L.A. Care to be a leading advocate for gun safety legislation as a public health issue. Regardless of the Second Amendment, there is nothing that would prevent this society from passing bans on assault rifles or raising the age to purchase these types of guns, to call for red flag laws and many other preventive things. L.A. Care’s</p>	

representation of a quarter of the population of Los Angeles County makes it L.A. Care's responsibility to take a leadership position. Without counting mass shootings, there were 40,000 gun deaths last year in the United States. The Board unanimously approved that resolution. He noted three items that he would like to address today:

- Supporting the ban on military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.
- Supporting background checks on all gun buyers
- Supporting additional funding and efforts for addressing mental health.

Embedded in the last one is also probably a call for a red flag law where people are considered dangerous to themselves or to others can be reported and, depending on how the rules work, their weapons confiscated. He wanted to bring this to ECAC's attention because as L.A. Care begins to mobilize a program to actualize this, he has asked James Kyle, MD, MDiv, Chief of Equity and Quality Medical Director, Quality Improvement, to make health disparities the top of L.A. Care's agenda in its equity outreach, to view this as another health disparity and public health issue. First L.A. Care is going to educate itself and everyone else about what the current gun laws here are in California and nationally. Then, it will be reaching out across the county to similarly situated organizations who have a stake in this so agenda can be developed for legislation at both the state and the federal level. ECAC is one of those organizations. There may be letter writing campaigns and all sorts of efforts. He thinks L.A. Care should be a voice for this issue. He noted that many Medi-Cal members suffer from acts of gun violence.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

**Submitted by Elizabeth Cooper, RCAC 2 Member, on June 7, 2022 via phone call:**  
*Good morning Mr. John Baackes, first I would like to wish you and your staff a happy Father's Day. I would like to encourage more Culturally Diverse fathers to get involved in L.A. Care. Mr. Baackes, I would like to thank you for bringing up the recommendation for Gun Safety, I think it is very important but I would also like to bring concern that voting is important because those kind of issues likes guns, healthcare are public policy issues will depend upon an informed and voting electorate. Also, Mr. Baackes as a parent of an L.A. Care member, regarding the senior and people with disability committee, I received a letter from an L.A. Care staff informing me that my son was still a part of the coordinated care initiative. As a member, I am truly disappointed and concerned that he had no opportunity to participate. This letter was received on May 20, 2022. Please inquire and investigate, and if not ok, but please take notice to the two-member Board representatives, Hilda Perez, and Layla Delgado-Gonzalez, and also to Deaka McClain, Estella Lara, Dr. Eakins and Francisco Oaxaca. Finally, Community Outreach was doing a good job regarding seniors and person with*

*disabilities prior to the changes. Thank you very much and I look forward to your input. Also, those I mentioned please take notice.*

Mr. Baackes responded that staff has noted Ms. Cooper's concerns.

Member Lara thanked Mr. Baackes and the Board for raising this issue. She noted that the guns are the problem, especially military style rifles. She thinks it is important for L.A. Care to do this work. As members, they should get involved when he wants them to write letters to support this motion. She said that RCAC members can write their legislators. She noted that this affects public health, especially the youth that are affected by this. This issue is unacceptable and she thinks they need to really do something about it instead of just talking about it like legislators do. They try to deflect the real issue here from the manufacturers because that's what they're doing and that's incorrect. Mr. Baackes thanked Member Lara for her comments. He noted that there are too many guns in the United States: over 400 million for only 330 million people. That means there are multiple guns per person. The US has 40 percent of all the privately held guns in the world. Last year 21 million guns were sold in the US.

Member McFerson thanked Mr. Baackes for his update. She appreciates him fighting against gun violence. She thinks there needs to be some sort of collaboration with the committee members due to the fact that they are in the community and are most impacted by this issue. She noted that some people use guns for work, hunting, and for fun. Some gun laws work and some do not. L.A. Care definitely needs to tackle that first. She said that L.A. Care needs to work with the AHA on hunger prevention. She helped them distribute food. They collaborated with UCLA to distribute food to the community, and it was mostly seniors and disabled and people who were low-income that had nothing. They can also work with the Department of Social Services to provide other services and sign people up for healthcare that people didn't know they could access. People were spending money on that as opposed to buying food. Mr. Baackes asked Member McFerson to email her question about the budget to him and he will work on getting her a response.

Hilda Perez, *Member Representative, Board of Governors*, asked Mr. Baackes for more information about the new Deputy Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Baackes responded that L.A. Care did not have a Deputy Chief Financial Officer and it needed to have someone in case Marie Montgomery, *Chief Financial Officer*, decided to retire.

Member Lluvia Salazar, *At-Large Member*, stated that she agrees with gun control. She said that L.A. Care should also support a campaign against bullying in schools. She thinks it is a big problem because it affects mental health. She noted that it was an issue in the mass shooting in Texas. Children also commit suicide due to bullying and she thinks L.A. Care should spread awareness. Mr. Baackes responded that both issues are related and one of the



	<p>issues of mental health that he would like to emphasize is that many Second Amendment defenders will say it's the people that are the issue. There is a big mental health issue. Up to half of the homeless population are dealing with mental health issues and now there is trauma suffered by children and adults during COVID-19, particularly those that are isolated. The problem is that there aren't enough mental health professionals to address all these issues at the same time. Getting rid of guns will help, so that people don't have the opportunity to express frustrations with gun violence.</p> <p>Member McClain thanked him for having staff reach out to her in regards to her request at the last ECAC meeting. She is arranging for other people with disabilities to be part of a Call the Car meeting. She thanked him for looking at gun violence as a public health concern. She asked if L.A. Care will be advocating about this at the federal level. She noted that it would be a good idea to make a resolution about bullying, mental health, and trying to get more mental health professionals to accommodate the situation. She is bothered that every time there is a shooting some are quick to say that it is a mental health issue. She asked why does this happen and asked if L.A. Care can do something about this stigma. Mr. Baackes responded that implementing the resolution will be tackled at both the state and federal levels. California has more reasonable gun safety laws, but there are still gaps. The federal gun laws are terrible. L.A. Care is going to educate itself and craft an agenda.</p>	
<p><b>UPDATE FROM GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS</b></p>	<p>Prity Thanki, <i>Local Government Advisor II, Government Affairs</i>, gave a Government Affairs Update (<i>A copy of the report can be obtained from CO&amp;E.</i>)</p> <p>State Budget Update</p> <p>On May 13, Governor Gavin Newsom released a \$300.7 billion budget proposal for the 2022-23 fiscal year, known as the “May Revise”. It contains updated spending/revenue estimates and updated priorities for the state budget proposal that the Governor released in January 2022.</p> <p>The Legislature will have until June 15 to pass a budget bill. The spending plan is generally spread out across multiple bills, including “trailer bills” which contain many budget provisions and details. There is no deadline for the budget trailer bills. This adds a level of complexity and uncertainty to the budget process. The Governor must take action by June 30. Once the budget is signed by the Governor, it goes into effect on July 1. The budget year runs from July 1 through June 30.</p> <p><i>Highlights of the May Revise impacting L.A. Care Members:</i></p> <p>Inflation Relief Plan</p> <p>The May Revise includes \$18.1 million spending package to help Californians with rising inflation. The centerpiece of the proposal is \$11.5 billion in tax refunds. This includes</p>	

sending \$400 checks to every eligible registered vehicle owner, capped at two checks per person. The package also includes:

- \$2.7 billion for emergency rental assistance
- \$1.4 billion to help pay utility bills
- \$933 million for hospital and nursing home staff
- \$750 million for free public transit
- \$304 million to make health coverage more affordable for families
- \$439 million to pause the diesel sales tax
- \$157 million to waive child care fees for low-income families

The proposal also expects that the state's minimum wage will increase to \$15.50 per hour, effective January 1, 2023.

#### Medi-Cal Caseload Estimates

The May Revise assumes that the Medi-Cal caseload will peak at 14.46 million residents in 2022-23, which represents a 0.6 percent increase.

#### Expansion of Coverage

The May Revise includes the Governor's January proposal to expand Medi-Cal eligibility to undocumented immigrants ages 26 to 49, the last group of income-eligible undocumented immigrants in California who have been excluded from comprehensive Medi-Cal coverage. The implementation would occur no sooner than January 1, 2024.

#### Elimination of Medi-Cal Premiums

Effective July 1, 2022, the budget proposes to eliminate Medi-Cal premiums for approximately 500,000 Medi-Cal enrollees who pay monthly premiums for coverage (Targeted Low Income Children Program (OTLICP), all State Children's Health Insurance Programs (CHIP), and the 250% Working Disabled Program).

#### Medi-Cal Redeterminations

During the pandemic, Medi-Cal beneficiaries did not have to go through the annual redetermination process. Once the federal government declares the end of the Public Health Emergency, Medi-Cal eligibility redeterminations will resume. The current federal Public Health Emergency declaration is through July 15, 2022, and the May Revise contains funding to assist counties with the first redeterminations completed in 2022. The first individuals no longer eligible for Medi-Cal could leave the program in November 2022, with redeterminations progressing gradually over the following 12 months.

#### Presumptive Eligibility for Individuals 65+, Blind or Disabled

The May Revise proposes to permanently extend and continue Medi-Cal presumptive eligibility for older adults and individuals who are blind or disabled. This is already permanent for other populations, and gives eligible older adults and individuals who are blind or disabled instant Medi-Cal eligibility for a limited time.

#### Doula Services

The May Revise contains additional funding to increase the reimbursement rates for doula services that will be provided as a preventive Medi-Cal benefit in January 2024. It includes personal support services for pregnant individuals and families throughout the pregnancy, labor, and postpartum period.

#### Health Enrollment Navigators

The May Revise adds one-time funding to Health Enrollment Navigators to assist in outreach, application assistance, enrollment, and retention for difficult-to-reach populations, including the implementation of Health4All.

#### Community Health Workers

The Budget proposes \$1.7 billion in funding over three years in Care Economy Workforce investment including funding to recruit and train 25,000 new community health workers as well as additional psychiatric providers.

#### Cognitive Health Assessments

The May Revise contains funding for Medi-Cal to cover an annual cognitive health assessment (a screening for dementia and Alzheimer's Disease) for individuals 65 or older, if they are ineligible for such service under Medicare. This benefit was passed into law last year and will start July 1, 2022.

#### California Food Assistance Program (CFAP)

The State of California provides state-funded food stamps through the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) for qualified non-citizens who do not qualify for federal benefits. The May Revise maintains the Governor's January proposal seeking to expand CFAP to all low-income residents ages 55 and over, regardless of immigration status. The budget proposes to allocate about \$35 million for initial planning and allocates about \$113 million annually starting in the 2025-26 budget year for the full expansion.

#### Housing & Homelessness

The May Revise proposes a \$2.5-billion-dollar increase for housing and homelessness programs from last year for multi-year investments to build housing and behavioral health housing. The May Revise includes funding for Homekey projects, interim housing and to accelerate affordable housing production and conversions of retail space in downtown corridors.

	<p><i>(Government Affairs will continue to monitor and provide key updates on the budget process as it related to RCAC Members.)</i></p> <p>PUBLIC COMMENT</p> <p><b>Submitted by Elizabeth Cooper, RCAC 2 Member, on June 7, 2022 via phone call:</b>  <i>Thank you Ms. Thanki for representing L.A. Care, Government Affairs Department, but I do agree that members should be involved in addressing L.A. Care issues through their elected officials because Dr. Booth made a comment about members should get involved and I agree with her comment.</i></p> <p>Member McFerson thanked Ms. Thanki for her report. She asked if the budget was going to affect health coverage for L.A. Care members. She suggested that L.A. Care work with other organizations to give out food at community resource centers (CRC). She noted that she volunteered at a hospital to do that. L.A. Care assisted in having the EBT onsite to provide services. She said that L.A. Care is doing it and helping people. But she would like to see the Department of Social Services there so they can reach out to people that need coverage. Ms. Thanki thanked Member McFerson for her comments and noted that the Department of Social Services is available at all CRCs to assist people with any concerns related to CalFresh or any other resources. She knows that staff at the CRCs are working hard to partner with organizations to get information out.</p> <p>Ms. Perez asked about Advocacy Day. Ms. Thanki responded that everyone is eager to bring back advocacy day, she thinks it's on hold due to COVID-19. She has had discussions with CO&amp;E about bringing it back next year. Auleria Eakins, <i>EdD, Manager, CO&amp;E</i>, stated that they are looking at possibly bringing back advocacy day in 2023 and noted that the public health emergency was recently extended.</p>	
<p><b>BOARD MEMBER REPORT</b></p>	<p>Hilda Perez, <i>Member Representative, Board of Governors</i>, and Layla Gonzalez, <i>Member Advocate, Board of Governors</i>, reported <i>(a copy of the report can be obtained from CO&amp;E)</i>:</p> <p>Ms. Gonzalez said that the Board of Governors met on June 2. Meeting materials are available on L.A. Care's website, and the motions list is available from COE staff. She thanked all of the RCAC members that joined this Board meeting and all the past ECAC and BOG meetings. If members need assistance with virtual meetings, please reach out to CO&amp;E staff. Dr. Seidman urged everyone to continue wearing masks and washing their hands. She sent her heartfelt best wishes to anyone that has been affected by the pandemic. She thanked Mr. Baackes and Dr. Seidman for their reports today. As part of the CEO report at the Board meeting, A.J. Lopez, <i>Director, Provider Contracts and Relationship Management, Provider Network Management</i>, and his team gave an update about member transportation and Call the Car. The report will be presented at ECAC at a later date.</p>	

In her financial report Ms. Montgomery presented the first report on L.A. Care’s grant initiatives and support for the community. The funding is more than \$500 million, with about two thirds expended since 2014. There is over \$60 million in support of the Community Resource Centers since 2007. L.A. Care’s programs have benefited the safety net providers and community programs, which, in turn, benefit all of Los Angeles County and L.A. Care’s members. The list of motions approved at the board and committee meetings is available from CO&E or Board Services. The next Board meeting is scheduled on July 28.

Ms. Perez stated that June is a big month because of Father’s Day, which is a holiday honoring fatherhood and paternal bonds as well as the influence of fathers in society. Juneteenth will also be celebrated on the same day as Father’s Day. She noted that June is also Asian American Pacific Heritage Month. She encouraged everyone to visit L.A. Care’s social media platforms to obtain important information about the topics they discuss. She encouraged members to stay up to date with all L.A. Care events such as food pantries and asked members to reach out to CO&E staff to get this information.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Submitted by Elizabeth Cooper, RCAC 2 Member, on June 7, 2022 via phone call:**  
*I would like the Board members, Layla and Hilda, to make note of my comments on the agenda today, It’s too often we the members who do not have a chance since the pandemic to get out our input and concerns when the RCACs are not meeting. It is so important to recognize the importance of the Regional Consumer Advisory Committee and staff. I hope that you continue to support their participation and public comments to the Board etc.*

Member McFerson thanked the Board members for their update. She wanted to speak about the RCACs participating and some of the things Mr. Baackes spoke about like gun violence and the fight towards changing gun laws. She noted that there needs to be better laws regarding women and their own personal bodies and fighting for abortion laws. Some women don’t have the capacity to carry kids. Many people take medication and it may affect their children negatively. She noted that they need to bring RCAC meetings back. She asked what can they do to make them more accessible. Ms. Perez thanked Ms. McFerson for her participation and said it is always a pleasure to hear her ideas. She also believes in RCAC participation. She noted that CO&E staff has conducted meetings to get an idea of who is able to participate virtually. She said that she receives calls and emails to remind her about the meetings. They are working on ways that RCAC members can participate in the meetings. She noted that people can write their questions in the chat and there are also closed captions. She has been advocating for members of the Children’s

	<p>Health Consultants Advisory Committee to participate at the Board meeting. She noted that it is important for members to speak up so the Board so the Board listens to their voice as well.</p>	
<p><b>COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS DEPARTMENT UPDATE</b></p>	<p>Auleria Eakins, Ed. D, <i>Manager, CO&amp;E</i>, gave the Communications and Community Relations update (<i>a copy of the report can be obtained from CO&amp;E</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Resource Centers (CRC) offer a Wealth of Wellness, health education, parenting, nutrition, exercise, assistance with benefits and more. She encouraged members to go on line or call for more information on monthly offerings.</li> <li>• Food Security continues to be a focus. The Inglewood CRC will have a Food Pantry this month. In partnership with Allies for Every Child, they welcome the community to pick up a bag of free, assorted groceries at the Resource Center on Monday, June 27 from 1:00pm to 3:30pm or until supplies last.</li> <li>• Lynwood CRC will have an on-site Food Pantry on Friday, June 24 from 10:00am – 2:00pm.</li> <li>• All CRCs will be conducting Back to School events over the summer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Saturday, July 9 Pomona</li> <li>- Friday, July 15 Lynwood</li> <li>- Saturday, July 16 Boyle Heights</li> <li>- Friday, July 22 Palmdale</li> <li>- Saturday, July 23 Pacoima</li> <li>- Friday, July 29 East L.A.</li> <li>- Saturday, July 30 El Monte</li> <li>- Saturday, July 30 Metro L.A.</li> <li>- Friday, August 5 Inglewood</li> <li>- Saturday, August 6 Norwalk</li> <li>- Saturday, August 13 Wilmington</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Norwalk CRC location is now staffed and open.</li> <li>• El Monte CRC location is also now staffed and open.</li> <li>• Long Beach CRC location is still under construction and on track to be completed by late June/early July.</li> <li>• Westside location is also under construction and expected to be completed by October.</li> </ul> <p>Human I-T Partnership  L.A. Care has entered into a partnership with Human I-T and will be working with the ECAC chairs and Community Partners to assist with identifying organizations within individual regions that work with low-income communities who may benefit from this</p>	

partnership. She asked they provide the names of organizations to their Field Specialist prior to June 30 by phone or email.

#### ECAC Budget

Last year ECAC Chairs were asked to provide input on programs and projects that they would like to see during the 2021-2022 fiscal year. CO&E is now planning for FY 2022-2023 and is asking ECAC chairs to provide input in the same manner. The input will help inform strategic plans for the new fiscal year which starts October 1, 2022. There are four quadrants: training for ECAC members, Social Determinants of Health, training for RCAC Members, and Other. All input must be submitted by Monday, June 13, to your respective Field Specialist.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

**Submitted by Elizabeth Cooper, RCAC 2 Member, on June 7, 2022 via phone call:**  
*Hi Dr. Eakins, I hope in the coming months that the RCACs would meet again on ZOOM, I felt like we were a family, we didn't always agree but we were able to discuss issues and connect with one another. I hope that you, all the staff, and the members are well.*

Ms. Perez said that she is happy to see so many departments working toward a single objective, such as mental health awareness. Health promoters have the opportunity to participate at many events, especially the CRC food pantries. Some events provide detergent and dish soap. The pandemic has affected people in many different ways including economically. She has been advocating for the registration process at CRC events to be faster. iPads could be provided to volunteers by Communications and Community Relations. Dr. Eakins will convey the message to Francisco Oaxaca, *Chief, Communications and Community Relations.*

Member McFerson said that her suggestion about robo calls would be a good opportunity for RCAC members to do outreach, this will take some work away from CO&E staff. They can be robo calls for all events including at CRCs. She noted that there is a program that provides resources and then follows up with people to make sure the services were beneficial, and refer them to proper people in order to adhere to their necessities as well. Dr. Eakins said that L.A. Care is regulated by the state and there are rules around how L.A. Care can communicate with robo calls, and she will pass the message along. She advised that she will provide information in regard to the Inglewood CRC grand opening once it becomes available. She noted that there are many changes going on with COVID, and more information will be provided once it becomes available.

<b>MEMBER ISSUES</b>	<p>Member McFerson stated that she feels they need to have more outreach to undocumented about health care coverage. With that being said, they have information at the CRCs and other sites that give away free food and different things like that. It would be a better way to make sure that they get coverage for people who need coverage that did not know was available, such as Seniors that need subsidies and different things like that. She thinks it is important to have food drive events and provide “homeless bags” for those without a means to prepare food. Homeless access bags at the food events can include cans of chili or beans.</p> <p>Ms. Perez encouraged members to reach out to staff if they need help. She is concerned that not everyone is computer or tech savvy or has access to computers. Idalia De La Torre, <i>Field Specialist Supervisor, CO&amp;E</i>, responded that staff continues to reach out via monthly phone calls to help with any concerns.</p> <p>Member Salazar said that someone contacted her in regards to the at-home COVID tests. She asked how many tests can parents receive per child? Ms. De La Torre asked Member Salazar to please reach out to member services for individual assistance.</p>	
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**OLD BUSINESS**

<b>ECAC AD HOC COMMITTEE – DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH</b>	<p>Member Deaka McClain, <i>ECAC At-Large member</i>, gave an update about the ECAC ad hoc committee on Disability Awareness Month.</p> <p>The ad-hoc committee’s purpose is to make recommendations to ECAC on a virtual education program that focuses on disability awareness and the community.</p> <p>The ad-hoc committee members met and recommend the following topics for inclusion during Disability Awareness held in March 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disability 101 (examples: addressing the hidden and visible disabilities, addressing the different types of disabilities, do’s and don’ts when encountering people with disabilities)</li> <li>• Access to care for the disabled community (example: medical services accessible to those with disabilities)</li> <li>• How to be an advocate and raise awareness for issues impacting the disabled community</li> <li>• Resources that includes organizations that deal specifically with the disabled community</li> </ul> <p>She asked the committee if they would like to move forward with the recommendations made by the ad-hoc committee.</p> <p>Member McFerson asked if she can get a brief synopsis on what they are supposed to do. She is not sure what is being done with this. Ms. De La Torre stated that Member McClain provided the recommendations made by the ad hoc committee and they are now moving into voting to approve the recommendations. Member McFerson said she asked Ms. De La</p>	
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	<p>Torre for a brief synopsis. Member McClain responded that Ms. De La Torre summed it up. They will now take a vote on the recommendations.</p> <p><b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>  <b>Submitted by Elizabeth Cooper, RCAC 2 Member, on June 7, 2022 via phone call:</b>  <i>Hi Deaka, as a parent of an L.A. Care member with special needs, I appreciate your suggestion and recommendations etc., but I do feel that the members and families who are part of L.A. Care should be a part of this as well, and because you represent the seniors and people with disabilities.</i></p> <p>Member McClain asked staff, “Is the public not invited to these meetings?” Ms. De La Torre responded that all RCAC members and the public can attend ECAC.</p> <p>The committee voted to approve the recommendations.</p>	<p><b>Approved by roll call.</b>  <b>11 AYES</b> (Byrd, Contreas-Wood, Lara, Mahler, McClain, Poz, Romo, Salazar, Sanchez, Refugio, Vazquez)</p> <p><b>1 ABSTENTION</b>  <b>McFerson</b></p>
<p><b>ECAC AD HOC COMMITTEE – AFRICAN AMERICAN HEALTH DISPARITIES</b></p>	<p>Member McFerson, <i>RCAC 6 Chair</i>, gave an update about ECAC’s ad hoc committee on African American Health Disparities.</p> <p>The ad-hoc committee purpose is to make recommendations on African American Health Disparities to be shared with L.A. Care’s Equity Steering Committee staff. The ad-hoc committee members recommend the following topics for future discussion with L.A. Care’s Equity Steering Committee staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chronic Health Issues (example: hypertension and diabetes)</li> <li>• Health Access</li> <li>• Preventive Care</li> <li>• Health Equity and Inclusion</li> <li>• Mental Health</li> <li>• Timely payment to providers</li> <li>• Medicaid/Medicare Discrimination (example: mistreatment of patients with public insurance, low reimbursement rates for providers who see Medicaid/Medicare patients)</li> <li>• Food Security (example: Food desert – not having access to healthy food in low-income communities)</li> </ul> <p>Member McFerson asked the committee if they would like to move forward with the recommendations made by the ad hoc committee.</p> <p><b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>  <b>Submitted by Elizabeth Cooper, RCAC 2 Member, on June 7, 2022 via phone call:</b>  <i>As an L.A. Care member of African American Heritage, those issues are important but I would like to see the committee take a vote and bring it before the</i></p>	

*ECAC committee. I don't disagree with the title of this ad-hoc and I can understand both sides, but bring it before the committee and take a vote instead of creating an ad-hoc to do this. I do feel it should be added to the agenda, and it would be more effective because the ECAC committee has to vote on it anyway.*

*(Member Lara and Member Poz left the meeting.)*

Member McClain said that they reached out to Ms. Cooper and she does not believe she understands. The committee is doing what she is asking.

Member McFerson said that she would like to make some recommendations in order to adhere to what Ms. Cooper was saying. Basically, it says, health disparities shared with L.A. Care's equity steering committee staff. The original motion was to be shared with the staff but also to involve all of our RCAC members to receive input from them.

Dr. Eakins said that she has some concerns because the ad hoc met and they had a full agreement on the report as was written and she is not sure they can make changes at this point. Ms. De La Torre responded that the ad hoc committee met with that intent and they are now voting to approve the recommendations. Dr. Eakins recommended that they move forward with the ad hoc's intent and nothing outside of that. She pointed out to Member McFerson that the intent of the ad hoc is up on the screen.

Member McFerson stated that she heard the recommendation and it was due to the original motion that was filed that not only the equity steering committee staff but also RCAC members as well. The original motion would entail those things. For future reference if they need to have another ad-hoc to discuss that before making those recommendations they can do that as well.

Member McClain said she is in agreement with Member McFerson.

Member McFerson said that from the very beginning she asked for the RCAC Members to participate.

Dr. Eakins responded that they can vote on the recommendations with the changes.

Ms. De La Torre asked for clarification on the recommendations. Member McClain responded that they are recommending to the steering committee but also recommending these recommendations be shared with RCAC members. Member McFerson agreed.

Dr. Eakins stated that there are no set dates for the reconvening of the RCACs at the moment and asked when this information will get back to the steering committee. She noted that the only group that has set meeting dates is ECAC. She questioned how they will get this information out to the RCACs.

**Approved by roll call.  
10 AYES (Byrd,  
Conteas-Wood,**

	<p>Member McClain asked ECAC how they would share this information to the RCACs.</p> <p>Member Cynthia Contreas-Wood, <i>RCAC 3 Chair</i>, said that there are probably pieces of this that haven't gone completely into how they will do this and it sounds like they need more review of that. If they want to vote today on the piece that doesn't go as far as how they will get it out to our RCACs. Staff is right, the RCACs are not meeting right now.</p> <p>Member McFerson said that would be a separate motion. She thinks they should wait until the RCACs reconvene.</p> <p>Chairperson Vazquez called for a roll call vote on the recommendations.</p>	<p><b>Mahler, McClain, McFerson, Romo, Salazar, Sanchez, Refugio, Vazquez)</b>  <i>(Member Lara and Member Poz left the meeting and did not cast a vote.)</i></p>
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>		
<p><b>COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DELETE THE DIVIDE</b></p>	<p>Selwyn Hollins, <i>Director, County of Los Angeles, Internal Services Department</i>, gave a presentation about County of Los Angeles Delete the Divide team <i>(A copy of the presentation can be obtained from CO&amp;E.)</i>.</p> <p><b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>  <b>Submitted by Elizabeth Cooper, RCAC 2 Member, on June 7, 2022 via phone call:</b>  <i>I, Ms. Cooper agree with technology but I also agree that people get so consumed by technology, but it's more important to connect with the people.</i></p> <p>Member Perez thanked Mr. Hollins for his patience and for attending ECAC. She asked if people need a social security number to participate in this program, either in the training to get a job or in looking for a subsidy for internet access. Mr. Hollins responded that to be a member the program people only need to live in an underserved community impacted by the digital divide. There are a number of ways to qualify for the subsidy and don't necessarily need a social security number. There are a number of programs that people can automatically qualify for.</p> <p>Member McFerson said that she really appreciates him taking the time out to update ECAC on this. She has spoken many times about how they need IT access, people need access to actually do these things and also the equipment in order to do so. Some people who have ADHD, who have memory issues like her. She has had brain surgery so she can speak on different things having to do with the disparities that people go through when it comes to this new virtual world that people are dealing with. She really appreciates him taking the time out to update ECAC on this program and for showing so much love to the community.</p>	

<b>FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS</b>		
	<p>Chairperson Vasquez would like to receive a presentation about Durable Medical Equipment. She believes this will be very beneficial to all ECAC members.</p> <p>Member McFerson said she would like an update on the income that the RCACs received and what they have done with the \$5,000 each RCAC was allotted. She would like to receive information about the RCACs restarting and the grand opening of the Inglewood CRC.</p>	
<b>PUBLIC COMMENTS</b>		
<b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>	<p><b>Submitted by Elizabeth Cooper, RCAC 2 Member, on June 7, 2022 via phone call:</b>  <i>Members of the ECAC, L.A. Care staff, and the public, I'm so thankful today that we have a different organization, and that we the people can speak on our views. That is why I try to be so informed. I want to thank each and every one of you who listen to my public comments whether you agree or disagree. I feel it's a privilege to be a part of L.A. Care, and I do hope you appreciate our democracy here particular in our great state of California. All of you have a father or have been a father figures, give them the acknowledgment they should have. God bless each and every one of you.</i></p> <p>Member McFerson said that Ms. Cooper was saying that she doesn't feel that the motion that she was speaking of was carried out properly. She was given a hard time just due to the fact that it was not done properly. She feels that the ad hocs are just an ad hoc. They need to have more RCAC involvement. She is here for one purpose only and that's to make sure that the RCAC member, the community, everyone who needs services, get it. She speaks for them. If she gets a hard time from either staff or ECAC, it's not going to stop her from fighting, because she is here for one purpose and one purpose only. If she gets some sort of hard time for filing a motion or doing some things that they're really supposed to do, then that is okay, it's not going to stop her from fighting. She has been there working and doing things like that so she understands that there is a process both ways. Where many people who may have a whole lot of income may not understand.</p>	
<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	<p>Chairperson Vazquez thanked the interpreters, L.A. Care staff, and the public for attending. The meeting was adjourned at 1:46 p.m.</p>	

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:**  
Victor Rodriguez, *Board Specialist II, Board Services*  
Malou Balones, *Board Specialist III, Board Services*  
Linda Merkens, *Senior Manager, Board Services*

**APPROVED BY**  
Fatima Vasquez (due to public health orders the document will be signed when it is possible)  
Fatima Vasquez, *ECAC Chair* \_\_\_\_\_  
Date 7/13/22