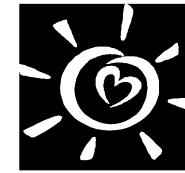


# BOARD OF GOVERNORS

## Executive Committee

### Meeting Minutes – March 26, 2025

1055 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017



**L.A. Care**  
H E A L T H P L A N

#### Members

Alvaro Ballesteros, MBA, *Chairperson*

Ilan Shapiro MD, MBA, FAAP, FACHE, *Vice Chairperson*

Stephanie Booth, MD, *Treasurer*

John G. Raffoul, *Secretary*

G. Michael Roybal, MD

#### Management/Staff

Martha Santana-Chin, *Chief Executive Officer*

Sameer Amin, MD, *Chief Medical Officer*

Linda Greenfeld, *Chief Product Officer*

Todd Gower, *Interim Chief Compliance Officer*

Augustavia J. Haydel, Esq., *General Counsel*

Alex Li, MD, *Chief Health Equity Officer*

Noah Paley, *Chief of Staff*

Acacia Reed, *Chief Operating Officer*

Afzal Shah, *Chief Financial Officer*

*\*Absent*

AGENDA ITEM/PRESENTER	MOTIONS / MAJOR DISCUSSIONS	ACTION TAKEN
<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	Alvaro Ballesteros, MBA, <i>Chairperson</i> , called to order at 2:07 pm the meetings of the L.A. Care Executive Committee and the L.A. Care Joint Powers Authority Executive Committee. The meetings were held simultaneously. He welcomed everyone to the meetings and wished everyone a Happy New Year.  He provided information on how to submit public comments.	
<b>APPROVE MEETING AGENDA</b>	The agenda for today's meeting was approved.	<b>Approved unanimously. 5 AYES (Ballesteros, Booth, Raffoul, Roybal, and Shapiro)</b>
<b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>	There was no public comment.	
<b>APPROVE MEETING MINUTES</b>	The minutes of the January 22, 2025 meeting were approved.	<b>Approved unanimously. 5 AYES</b>
<b>CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT</b>	Chairperson Ballesteros expressed it has been his honor to Chair these meetings. He appreciates L.A. Care Health Plan and the staff. When he joined the Board of Governors eight years ago, he was trying to understand healthcare financing based on his experience as a frontline health care professional. As a member of the L.A. Care Board he understood it, with the only thing missing being the state level. The Los	

**APPROVED**

AGENDA ITEM/PRESENTER	MOTIONS / MAJOR DISCUSSIONS	ACTION TAKEN
	<p>Angeles County infrastructure became very clear to him after a few years, and he hopes he has helped make a difference and contribute to the plan. He has become so protective of L.A. Care. Whenever he is in the community he will always speak up to explain how the system operates. There are a lot of partners involved, the providers, Independent Physician Association (IPAs), Management Services Organization (MSOs), the health plans and the state. He encouraged helping everyone understand the roles. He has the utmost respect for everybody that does this work. We are all here for the same reasons and working together is what makes this community successful. He has appreciated the support from Board members and it has been an honor for him to have done this for the last few years.</p> <p>He commended Augustavia J. Haydel, <i>General Counsel</i>, and the Board Services staff, and all the technicians behind the scenes, they are great at their jobs and committed to L.A. Care. They are good people. He appreciates all the help from everybody and he has the utmost respect for them.</p>	
<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT</b>	<p>Martha Santana-Chin, <i>Chief Executive Officer</i>, thanked Chairperson Ballesteros, on behalf of the entire L.A. Care team. Over the last year she has been having conversations about the CEO and spent countless hours with Chairperson Ballesteros learning about L.A. Care, the team, the work, the Board, and about the important role that L.A. Care plays in the County. She initially wondered how he managed putting countless hours into two jobs.</p> <p>He has been a tremendous sounding board, partner, champion and leader. As she was going through the interview process, she admired his commitment. She also admires the strength of the leadership team and all the people that work at L.A. Care. She sees it every day. She thanked Chairperson Ballesteros for being a very strong partner, a sounding board and supporting her and all that he has done for the entire team during his tenure as Chairperson.</p> <p>She noted that it is nice to hear about the evolution in his learning about the work that L.A. Care does. She commented that everyone is on a journey and learning a new set of skills with a new set of tools that we learn to harness. Chairperson Ballesteros told her today that she came to L.A. Care at the right time because it is only fun when it is really hard. He is handing over the Chair when it is really hard, so it will be fun for our incoming Chair. She thanked Chairperson Ballesteros for everything that he has done.</p>	

AGENDA ITEM/PRESENTER	MOTIONS / MAJOR DISCUSSIONS	ACTION TAKEN
	<p>Ms. Santana Chin also thanked Sameer Amin, MD, <i>Chief Medical Officer</i>, Acacia Reed, <i>Chief Operating Officer</i>, Terry Brown, <i>Chief Human Resources Officer</i> and Noah Paley, <i>Chief of Staff</i>, for leaning in and participating in all the work to listen to L.A. Care members. One thing she noticed when she joined the organization is the richness of feedback from the members, L.A. Care senior staff is focused on visiting the advisory committees to listen, understand and learn how to better support members, harness the power of their insights and voices. In the coming months the Board will be able to see some of the changes being introduced to help members feel heard and empowered.</p> <p>The California state budget has a deficit and there are challenges ahead. L.A. Care is closely monitoring the situation along with proposed federal cuts to the Medicaid program. Staff is preparing L.A. Care for what might come as a result of that, and actively fighting to educate elected officials and others in positions of authority on the potential effects to the economy, to the community and to the members that L.A. Care serves, so any dramatic impacts can be mitigated.</p> <p>L.A. Care leadership is also reviewing capital expenditures and vendor relationships and looking at automation opportunities. In the last couple of years L.A. Care invested in technology to unlock the power of automation and efficiencies. They are also focused on effectively managing health care costs.</p> <p>The wildfire relief was authorized a couple months ago by the Board. L.A. Care took time frame support as helpful and additive as opposed to duplicative or an inefficient use of resources. A few common principles have emerged focused on recovering, restoring and enhancing access to critical services that are important to L.A. Care stakeholders. In May the Board will hear more about that.</p> <p>L.A. Care's advocacy is affecting medical coverage in explaining the coalition work and connecting with people that really need to hear it. Cherie Compartore, <i>Senior Director, Government Affairs</i>, has arranged for L.A. Care's state and federal lobbyists to present information at the April Board Meeting, with a robust conversation planned. Ms. Santana-Chin referred to the materials included in the meeting packet related to L.A. Care's advocacy work.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government Affairs Update</li> </ul>	<p>Ms. Compartore reported that L.A. Care's federal and state lobbyists will join the April Board meeting in person for a high-level discussion of the current Medicaid landscape both at the federal and the state levels. They will walk through the current Medicaid landscape.</p>	

AGENDA ITEM/PRESENTER	MOTIONS / MAJOR DISCUSSIONS	ACTION TAKEN
	<p>At the state level, the presentation will provide insight into the budget process and give examples of how L.A. Care is engaging with policymakers to protect members and the safety net, and make sure their needs are addressed. The proactive effort by L.A. Care at state and federal levels will be highlighted. There will be information about initiatives L.A. Care has been leading. L.A. Care is committed to engaging at the forefront of all of the conversations, as well as partnering with other advocacy organizations at both the state and federal level. There will be sufficient time for Board members to ask questions and discuss the issues.</p> <p>Board Member Booth asked if the force of the former Proposition 35 coalition will be harnessed in this effort. Ms. Santana-Chin confirmed that L.A. Care is actively engaged with that coalition. In the meeting materials there is a letter from a coalition called, Protect Your Healthcare, which is what that coalition is named. That coalition is involved at a variety of levels in making sure collective voices are heard supporting Medicaid.</p> <p>Board Member Shapiro asked about any need for Board members to go to Sacramento for advocacy with the state legislature. Ms. Santana-Chin reported that a legislative briefing will be held at L.A. Care's offices tomorrow, which received a robust response. There is a very willing delegation that is actively engaging with L.A. Care and looking to L.A. Care for education and information. L.A. Care has shared fact sheets tailored for the congressional delegation and for members. A series of videos are being developed to share with legislative members to use in negotiations, with information about the lives that will be devastatingly impacted. Meetings are scheduled individually with a number of elected officials that are in specific legislative committees that have influence over decisions on this matter. L.A. Care is developing topical primers to address individual topics and align with stakeholders and essentially train, if you will, the elected officials to be able to intelligently speak to the topics. Stakeholder groups have been very receptive and have made time to connect with L.A. Care.</p> <p>Ms. Compartore reported that approximately 50 registrants are attending the legislative briefing for congressional health deputies and staff in district offices. Ms. Santana-Chin will provide information and discuss the various Medicaid threats with them. L.A. Care is providing a significant package including facts sheets. L.A. Care will also send videos to offices. Significant interest has been expressed, and the highest level of attendance received in ten years of holding briefings. L.A. Care is planning legislative meetings in Sacramento and will send a letter to Board Members and other organizations</p>	

AGENDA ITEM/PRESENTER	MOTIONS / MAJOR DISCUSSIONS	ACTION TAKEN
	<p>encouraging advocacy opposing the Medicaid threats. It may be more valuable to visit Washington DC, and advocate at the federal level in the future, due to the California budget deficit. At the right time, whether its DC or Sacramento, it would be good to go and lobby lawmakers as part of a coalition of health plans, members and others. Attention is needed on purple districts in California. L.A. Care is working with the California Primary Care Association plan regarding the planned “Day at the Capitol”. It might not be the focus for L.A. Care in terms of the specific issues, but these are L.A. Care safety net providers, and it's always good to show unity.</p>	
<b>COMMITTEE ISSUES</b>		
Consider Board Officer Nominations	<p>Chairperson Ballesteros described the nominations received and the Committee members reached consensus on the nominations to be presented at the April Board meeting.</p> <p>Chairperson: Booth, Shapiro  Vice Chairperson: Raffoul  Treasurer: Booth  Secretary: Vaccaro</p>	
Ratify executed Amendment No. 58 to the Plan Partner Services Agreement between L.A. Care and Blue Shield Promise Health Plan which updates the 2022 National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) delegation standards	<p>Nadia Grochowski, <i>Associate Counsel III Senior Director Health Care Legal Services</i>, introduced the delegation amendment for Blue Shield Promise.</p> <p>Board Member Booth appreciated the summary of changes but experienced some difficulty in determining the exact change in the document. She suggested underlining new language or some other method to highlight the changes.</p> <p>Ms. Grochowski thanked her and she will make that part of the process in the future as needed.</p> <p><b><u>Motion EXE 100.0425</u></b>  <b>To ratify the executed Amendment No. 58 to the Plan Partner Services Agreement between L.A. Care and Blue Shield Promise Health Plan which incorporates the 2022 National Committee for Quality Assurance delegation standards.</b></p>	<p><b>Approved unanimously. 5 AYES</b></p> <p><b>The Committee approved to include EXE 100 to the Consent Agenda for April 3, 2025 Board meeting.</b></p>
Human Resources Policies HR-203 (Attendance and Punctuality), HR-216	Mr. Brown summarized a motion to approve revisions to HR-203 (Attendance and Punctuality), HR-216 (Recording of Time), and HR-229 (Workplace Bullying). The	

AGENDA ITEM/PRESENTER	MOTIONS / MAJOR DISCUSSIONS	ACTION TAKEN																
(Recording of Time), and HR-229 (Workplace Bullying) <b>(EXE A)</b>	<div>revised policies are written to comply with changes to Regulatory, Legislative and Judicial changes, and reflect changes in L.A. Care’s practices.</div> <table><tr><td>Policy Number</td><td>Policy</td><td>Section</td><td>Description of Modification</td></tr><tr><td>HR-203</td><td>Attendance and Punctuality</td><td>Employee Relations</td><td>Minor edits to wording</td></tr><tr><td>HR-216</td><td>Recording of Time</td><td>Employee Relations</td><td>Added section 4.10</td></tr><tr><td>HR-229</td><td>Workplace Bullying</td><td>Employee Relations</td><td>Clarified definitions and made edits to the Procedure section.</td></tr></table> <div><b><u>Motion EXE A.0125</u></b> <b>To approve the Human Resources Policy HR-214 (Employee Conduct &amp; Discipline), as presented.</b></div>	Policy Number	Policy	Section	Description of Modification	HR-203	Attendance and Punctuality	Employee Relations	Minor edits to wording	HR-216	Recording of Time	Employee Relations	Added section 4.10	HR-229	Workplace Bullying	Employee Relations	Clarified definitions and made edits to the Procedure section.	<div>Approved unanimously. 5 AYES</div>
Policy Number	Policy	Section	Description of Modification															
HR-203	Attendance and Punctuality	Employee Relations	Minor edits to wording															
HR-216	Recording of Time	Employee Relations	Added section 4.10															
HR-229	Workplace Bullying	Employee Relations	Clarified definitions and made edits to the Procedure section.															
Approve Consent Agenda	<div>Approve the list of items that will be considered on a Consent Agenda for April 3, 2025 Board of Governors Meeting.</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>March 6, 2025 Board of Governors Meeting Minutes</li><li>Ratify executed Amendment No. 58 to the Plan Partner Services Agreement between L.A. Care and Blue Shield Promise Health Plan which updates the 2022 National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) delegation standards</li><li>Approve Regional Advisory Community Committees (RCACs) membership</li></ul></div>	<div>Approved unanimously. 5 AYES</div>																
<b>PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS</b>	<div>There were no public comments.</div>																	
<b>ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION</b>	<div>The Joint Powers Authority Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 3:11 pm.</div> <div>Augustavia J. Haydel, Esq., <i>General Counsel</i> announced the items for discussion in closed session. She announced there is no report anticipated from the closed session. The meeting adjourned to closed session at 3:11 pm.</div> <div>REPORT INVOLVING TRADE SECRET Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 14087.38(n)</div>																	

AGENDA ITEM/PRESENTER	MOTIONS / MAJOR DISCUSSIONS	ACTION TAKEN
	<p>Discussion Concerning New Service, Program, Business Plan Estimated date of public disclosure: <i>March 2027</i></p> <p>CONTRACT RATES Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 14087.38(m)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan Partner Rates</li> <li>• Provider Rates</li> <li>• DHCS Rates</li> </ul> <p>CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—ANTICIPATED LIT Significant Exposure (3 cases) Pursuant to paragraph 2 of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9 of the Ralph M. Brown Act</p> <p>CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—EXISTING LITIGATION L.A. Care Health Plan’s Notice of Contract Dispute under Contract No. 04-36069 Department of Health Care Services (Case No. Unavailable)</p> <p>THREAT TO PUBLIC SERVICES OR FACILITIES Government Code Section 54957 Consultation with: Acacia Reed, <i>Chief Operating Officer</i>, Noah Paley, <i>Chief of Staff</i>, Terry Brown, <i>Chief Human Resources Officer</i></p> <p>THREAT TO PUBLIC SERVICES OR FACILITIES Government Code Section 54957 Consultation with: Acacia Reed, <i>Chief Operating Officer</i>, Noah Paley, <i>Chief of Staff</i>, Terry Brown, <i>Chief Human Resources Officer</i>, and Augustavia Haydel, <i>General Counsel</i></p> <p>CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—EXISTING LITIGATION Pursuant to Section 54956.9(d)(1) of the Ralph M. Brown Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Managed Health Care Enforcement Matter Numbers: 18-799, 20-063, 21-428, 21-509, 21-680</li> <li>• Department of Health Care Services, Office of Administrative Hearings and Appeals, In the matter of: L.A. Care Health Care Plan Appeal No. MCP22-0322-559-MF</li> </ul> <p>PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION, PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT and CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR Sections 54957 and 54957.6 of the Ralph M. Brown Act Title: CEO Agency Designated Representative: Alvaro Ballesteros, MBA Unrepresented Employee: Martha Santana-Chin</p>	

AGENDA ITEM/PRESENTER	MOTIONS / MAJOR DISCUSSIONS	ACTION TAKEN
RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION	The meeting reconvened in open session at 4:28 pm. No reportable actions were taken during the closed session.	
ADJOURNMENT	The meeting adjourned at 4:28 pm	

Respectfully submitted by:

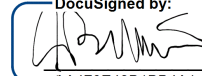
Linda Merkens, *Senior Manager, Board Services*

Malou Balones, *Board Specialist III, Board Services*

Victor Rodriguez, *Board Specialist II, Board Services*

APPROVED BY:

DocuSigned by:



Alvaro Ballesteros, MBA, *Board Chairperson*

Date: 5/4/2025 | 8:21 AM PDT

**APPROVED**