



For Immediate Release

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DHS Statement in Response to Drew University Lawsuit

The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (DHS) was notified this morning of Drew University's intent to file a lawsuit, which was not formally served. The department obtained a copy of the complaint and is reviewing it. Until that review is complete, DHS will not comment on the substance of the litigation.

The department is disappointed that Drew has chosen to pursue a lawsuit rather than work constructively with the County as it labors to pass its next U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) survey at Martin Luther King, Jr-Harbor Hospital and maintain the hospital's Medicare certification.

As Drew knows, the County has worked virtually non-stop and at great financial cost since the CMS survey to reconfigure the hospital so it will meet national CMS standards and continue to provide critically needed healthcare in the community.

In the face of enormous challenges, the County has maintained a full Emergency Department as well as virtually all outpatient services, and continues to provide the same number of inpatient beds at MLK-Harbor Hospital through a combination of beds at the facility, other nearby County hospitals, and private hospitals within a 12 mile radius of the hospital. There has been no significant decrease in services in the community.

Irrespective of this unfortunate lawsuit, the singular focus of DHS is on providing high quality health services in the community that meet national standards.