Office of the President

#### TO MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE:

# **DISCUSSION ITEM**

For Meeting of August 18, 2021

# SPEAKER SERIES – HOMELESS HEALTHCARE COLLABORATIVE, LOS ANGELES CAMPUS

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Executive Vice President Byington will introduce speakers from the Los Angeles campus who have intervened to provide medical services to patients experiencing homelessness (PEH) in Los Angeles County through the use of mobile clinics. The agenda topic will be presented by Johnese Spisso, RN, MPA, who is the president of UCLA Health and CEO of the UCLA Hospital System, and Dr. Medell Briggs-Malonson, MD, MPH, Chief, Health Equity, Diversity and Inclusion for the UCLA Hospital and Clinic System.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Los Angeles County has over 66,000 people who are unsheltered or have temporary shelter. The COVID-19 pandemic caused an increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness (PEH) due to unforeseen economic hardships. Over the last five years, UCLA Health's emergency departments (ED) have treated approximately 15,000 individual people experiencing homelessness for various medical, psychiatric, and social needs. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, UCLA Health recommitted to strengthening the clinical and preventive services for this unique and highly vulnerable population.

The UCLA Health Homeless Healthcare Collaborative program will expand access to efficient, equitable and high-quality healthcare to unsheltered and temporarily sheltered people throughout the greater Los Angeles area. The program will directly partner with academic, community health, and social service organizations to achieve improved health outcomes and connect these patients to critical social services, including housing and employment opportunities.

The Homeless Healthcare Collaborative will also focus more broadly on improving coordinated healthcare services for PEH throughout the Los Angeles region. The Collaborative is comprised of several long-standing programs, such as the David Geffen School of Medicine Student-Run Homeless Clinic, as well as novel mobile healthcare programs to expand health care and social services to PEH in the community. In addition to the UCLA Health Mobile Eye Clinic and the Venice Family Clinic Mobile Outreach Clinic, new outreach teams comprised of nurses,

physicians, social workers, residents, and health science students will travel to areas of need in two customized medical vans. The teams will provide comprehensive primary and urgent care services in high-density areas (street and encampment outreach) and to individuals who would benefit from post-discharge evaluation following recent hospital, emergency room, or clinic visits (referral-based services). After an initial period of three months, the medical teams and fleet of vehicles will scale up in size and scope of healthcare services, based on identified community needs. Initially, the total projected patient volume served by UCLA's mobile clinics is estimated to be 400 to 500 encounters per month. The medical vans will launch in September-October 2021.

## Biography for Johnese Spisso

Johnese Spisso, MPA, is the President of UCLA Health, CEO of UCLA Hospital System, and Associate Vice Chancellor of UCLA Health Sciences. She is a nationally recognized academic healthcare leader with 30 years of experience, and oversees all operations of UCLA's four hospitals and over 200 community clinics as well as the health system's regional outreach strategy. Ms. Spisso received a master's degree in health care administration and public administration from the University of San Francisco, and a bachelor's degree in health sciences from Chapman College. She earned her Registered Nurse (RN) at the St. Francis School of Nursing. She is a published author in health care and lectures nationally on healthcare leadership in academic health systems. She was recognized by *Modern Healthcare* as one of the 50 Most Influential Clinical Executives in the nation in 2020 and as one of the Top 25 Women Leaders in Healthcare in 2019.

# Biography for Medell Briggs-Malonson

Medell Briggs-Malonson, MD, MPH, MSHS is the Chief of Health Equity, Diversity and Inclusion for UCLA Hospital and Clinic System. She is also an Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. In her current role, she is responsible for the implementation and oversight of programs and initiatives to advance health equity and inclusive excellence within UCLA Health and the Los Angeles community. Dr. Briggs-Malonson is recognized for her national lectures on implicit bias in healthcare and innovative methods to advance health equity within diverse communities. Dr. Briggs-Malonson received her undergraduate degree from UCLA, MD from Harvard Medical School, MPH from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and her MSHS from the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

### Key to Acronyms

ED	Emergency Department
PEH	Patients Experiencing Homelessness