

From: [smita.mandal](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Public Comment BOS 6/17/24 Item No. 9
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Dear Board Members,

I am a primary care physician working out of Sierra Vista Family Medical Clinic. It is one among the many that serves under the umbrella of HCA by Ventura county. What is unique about this clinic is that it serves more than 50000 residents of the community, with 5 Full time PCPs and 1 Full time Pediatrician. If you can not imagine the work load, I welcome any volunteer to spend an 8 hr work day with us to see what we do. I am not exaggerating in saying more days than not, we do not get time to drink water in between patients, use the restroom leave alone to sit at our desk or have lunch during our assigned lunch hour, because patient care supersedes all of this in our eyes.

Our patient population comprises of underserved, homeless, socially disadvantaged, patients with mental disabilities which is much more taxing, requiring engagement beyond the allotted "patient care time". More days than not, we take additional work home, charting and finishing patient messages. Our clinic is in dire need of more FT physicians. It needs more funding to continue meeting needs of our increasing patient population. The clinics currently are highly underfunded and the proposal to cut down financing further is not only going to strip the physicians to bare bones, creating more work stress but completely break down the system.

You all are aware of 2/3 physicians leaving the system with integration 3 years ago. Since then not many could be hired because of poor work conditions, excessive work load and poor support.

The goal to make the clinic a revenue producing, finance generating entity is driving the organization away from its mission. Without proper financial support is causing more of us to leave and ultimately resulting in poor service to the society. The suggestion to reduce the number of full time physicians and cut their salaries is beyond preposterous.

I am hopeful that the esteemed members today will think deeply of the financing needed to put forth the work of building a robust health system and not pass the budget recommendations which will essentially break the ambulatory health system.

My statement as a private citizen does not necessarily reflect the view of the HCA or the County of Ventura Government.

Thanks you for your attention,

Smita Mandal MD.