



April 9, 2024

Board of Supervisors  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, California 93009

**SUBJECT: Approval of the Appointment of Ronald Farr and the Re-Appointment of Scott Underwood, DO, Delores Pupa, and Laura Espinosa to the Ventura County Medi-Cal Managed Care Commission (Commission) for the County Organized Health System, Also Known as Gold Coast Health Plan, for the Term Ending March 15, 2028; Approval of the Appointment of J. Tabin Cosio to the Commission for the Term Ending March 15, 2026**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Approval of the re-appointment of Scott Underwood, DO to the Commission, in accordance with Division 1, Chapter 3, Article 6, Section 1381-2(a) of the Ventura County Ordinance Code, for the term ending March 15, 2028.
2. Approval of the appointment of Ronald Farr to the Commission, in accordance with Division 1, Chapter 3, Article 6, Section 1381-2(b) of the Ventura County Ordinance Code, for the term ending March 15, 2028.
3. Approval of the re-appointment of Delores "Dee" Pupa to the Commission, in accordance with Division 1, Chapter 3, Article 6, Section 1381-2(c) of the Ventura County Ordinance Code, for the term ending March 15, 2028.
4. Approval of the re-appointment of Laura Espinosa to the Commission, in accordance with Division 1, Chapter 3, Article 6, Section 1381-2(g) of the Ventura County Ordinance Code, for the term ending March 15, 2028.
5. Approval of the appointment of J. Tabin Cosio to the Commissions, in accordance with Division 1, Chapter 3, Article 6, Section 1381-2(i) of the Ventura County Ordinance Code, for the term ending March 15, 2026.

**FISCAL/MANDATES IMPACT:**

None

**BACKGROUND:**

On December 29, 2009, your Board passed, by a unanimous vote, Ordinance No. 4409 (Ordinance), which created the Commission as the governing board for the Medi-Cal managed care plan to serve beneficiaries in Ventura County. The Commission was established for the purpose of designing and operating a publicly operated managed health care delivery system whose mission is to improve the health of its members through the provision of quality care and services. Subsequently, your Board has approved the repeal and reenactment of the Ordinance, on October 6, 2015, to change the composition of the Commission, on December 10, 2019 to expand your Board's ability to appoint commissioners with relevant experience and remove the residency requirement, on January 25, 2022 to change the composition of the Commission and remove the requirement that certain members of the Commission be selected from a list with a minimum of three nominees, and again on January 10, 2023 to change the composition of the Commission and increase the number of voting members. Section 1831-2 sets forth the composition, qualifications and terms of the Commission. The Commission is empowered to negotiate and enter into exclusive contracts with the State of California Department of Health Care Services pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 14087.5, and to arrange for the provision of health care services to Ventura County Medi-Cal beneficiaries. The contract is administered by the 11-member Commission.

**DISCUSSION:**

Per the Ordinance, no commission member may serve more than two consecutive four-year terms, and vacancies will be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term. Appointments, with the exception of those filling an unscheduled vacancy, shall be deemed to commence on March 15 of the year of the appointment.

**Recommendation #1:**

We are recommending the re-appointment of Scott Underwood, DO, President and Chief Medical Officer of Oceanview Medical Specialists and current medical director of Medicine Specialty Center West. Dr. Underwood has served the Commission since being appointed to a Physician Representative seat on May 12, 2020. Dr. Underwood would serve a second consecutive four-year term ending March 15, 2028.

**Recommendation #2:**

We are recommending the appointment of Ronald Farr, Chief Financial Officer at Los Robles Regional Medical Center. Mr. Farr would serve as a Private Hospital/Healthcare System Representative for a four-year term ending March 15, 2028.

Recommendation #3:

On January 15, 2019, Dee Pupa, Ventura County Health Care Plan Administrator, was appointed to the Commission to fill an unscheduled vacancy for the Ventura County Medical Center System Representative seat formerly held by Narcisa Egan and served the remainder of Ms. Egan's term ending March 15, 2020. On February 20, 2020, Ms. Pupa was re-appointed to serve a four-year term ending March 15, 2024. We now recommend your Board approve the re-appointment of Ms. Pupa to serve a second consecutive four-year term ending March 15, 2028.

Recommendation #4:

We are recommending the re-appointment of Laura Espinosa. Ms. Espinosa was referred by the League of United Latin American Citizens and has served on the Commission since she was appointed to the Consumer Representative seat on December 13, 2016. Ms. Espinosa would serve a second consecutive four-year term ending March 15, 2028.

Recommendation #5:

On March 6, 2024, an unscheduled vacancy notice was posted by the Clerk of the Board for the County of Ventura Representative seat formerly held by Shawn Atin. We are recommending your Board approve the appointment of J. Tabin Cosio to serve as the County of Ventura Representative, as provided for in the Ordinance. Mr. Cosio is interim Human Resources Director for the County of Ventura and will serve the remainder of Mr. Atin's term ending March 15, 2026.

This letter has been reviewed by County Counsel. If you have any questions regarding this item, please call me at (805) 654-2681 or Robert Bravo at (805) 662-6868.

Sincerely,



Sevet Johnson, PsyD  
County Executive Officer