

BETH C. DRAIN, CA CSR NO. 7152

BEFORE THE
GOVERNANCE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
INDEPENDENT CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
TO THE
CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE
ORGANIZED PURSUANT TO THE
CALIFORNIA STEM CELL RESEARCH AND CURES ACT
REGULAR MEETING

LOCATION: VIA ZOOM

DATE: JUNE 10, 2025
3 P.M.

REPORTER: BETH C. DRAIN, CA CSR
CSR. NO. 7152

FILE NO.: 2025-15

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I N D E X

ITEM DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO.
OPEN SESSION	
1. CALL TO ORDER	3
2. ROLL CALL	3
3. CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACTS FOR I.T. SERVICES	4
4. CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATION FOR COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR ICOC CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR, AND PRESIDENT & CEO	7
CLOSED SESSION	11
5. DISCUSSION OF PERSONNEL [EVALUATION OF CIRM ICOC CHAIR] (GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 11126, SUBDIVISION (A); HEALTH & SAFETY CODE SECTION 125290.30(F) (3) (D)).	
OPEN SESSION	
6. PUBLIC COMMENT	NONE
7. ADJOURNMENT	12

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JUNE 10, 2025; 3 P.M.

CHAIRPERSON GASSON: IN THAT CASE I WILL
CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER, AND I WOULD ASK SCOTT TO
TAKE A ROLL PLEASE.

MR. TOCHER: SURE. KIM BARRETT.

DR. BARRETT: PRESENT.

MR. TOCHER: GEORGE BLUMENTHAL.

DR. BLUMENTHAL: HERE.

MR. TOCHER: MARIA BONNEVILLE.

VICE CHAIR BONNEVILLE: PRESENT.

MR. TOCHER: ANNE-MARIE DULIEGE.

DR. DULIEGE: PRESENT.

MR. TOCHER: ELENA FLOWERS. JUDY GASSON.

CHAIRPERSON GASSON: HERE.

MR. TOCHER: VITO IMBASCIANI.

CHAIRMAN IMBASCIANI: HERE.

MR. TOCHER: PAT LEVITT.

DR. LEVITT: HERE.

MR. TOCHER: LINDA MALKAS.

DR. MALKAS: HERE.

MR. TOCHER: ADRIANA PADILLA. AND JOYCE
SACKEY.

DR. SACKY: HERE.

CHAIRPERSON GASSON: EXCELLENT. WE HAVE A

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1 QUORUM, AND THE FIRST ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION IS
2 CONTRACTS FOR I.T. SERVICES. AND I'D LIKE TO INVITE
3 DIRECTOR OF FINANCE MICHELLE LEWIS TO PRESENT THIS
4 ITEM PLEASE. WE CAN SEE YOUR SLIDE.

5 MS. LEWIS: OH, PERFECT. ALL RIGHT.
6 MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE, CIRM TEAM, AND MEMBERS
7 OF THE PUBLIC, WE'D LIKE TO PRESENT -- WE HAVE TWO
8 I.T. CONTRACTS THAT ARE OVER THE \$250,000 THRESHOLD
9 THAT WE'LL PRESENT TODAY FOR APPROVAL.

10 THE FIRST CONTRACT IS AFTER AVALLATION,
11 LLC FOR \$380,000. IT IS TO SUPPORT A 27/7 HELP
12 DESK, PART OF OUR NETWORK SECURITY FOR SOME
13 DEDICATED, ONSITE I.T. ENGINEERING FIVE DAYS IN THE
14 OFFICE, BACK-END ARCHITECT, AND SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT,
15 AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND CONSULTATION FOR THE
16 OFFICE.

17 THE SECOND I.T. CONTRACT WOULD BE FOR
18 EXCEL TEK FOR \$270,000. THIS IS PART OF OUR SUPPORT
19 OF OUR GRANTS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. AND THIS WOULD BE
20 FOR CONTINUED STAFFING OF A SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER
21 WHO HAS A SKILL SET, A CRITICAL COMPONENT TO
22 SUPPORTING THE GRANTS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

23 AND WE WOULD REQUEST APPROVAL OF THESE TWO
24 CONTRACTS.

25 CHAIRPERSON GASSON: OKAY. THANK YOU VERY

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1 MUCH, MICHELLE. I'D LIKE TO ASK FOR A MOTION AND A
2 SECOND TO APPROVE THESE CONTRACTS.

3 DR. BLUMENTHAL: MOVE WE APPROVE.

4 VICE CHAIR BONNEVILLE: SECOND.

5 CHAIRPERSON GASSON: OKAY. WE HAVE A
6 MOTION AND A SECOND. IS THERE ANY DISCUSSION ABOUT
7 THESE TWO CONTRACTS FOR I.T.? IS THERE ANY PUBLIC
8 COMMENT?

9 DR. DULIEGE: ACTUALLY ANNE-MARIE.

10 CHAIRPERSON GASSON: I COULDN'T SEE YOU,
11 ANNE-MARIE. GO AHEAD PLEASE.

12 DR. DULIEGE: JUDY, A QUICK QUESTION.
13 FIRST OF ALL, I ASSUME THIS IS AN ANNUAL COST. SO
14 THIS IS AN ANNUAL COST OF THE CONTRACT THAT WILL BE
15 RENEWED OVER THE YEARS?

16 MS. LEWIS: IT'S AN ANNUAL COST, YES.

17 DR. DULIEGE: THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT. AND
18 CAN YOU TELL US A LITTLE BIT MORE YOUR OWN SENSE OF
19 WHAT IT FULFILLS REGARDING TO THE NEEDS? YOUR
20 ASSESSMENT THAT OBVIOUSLY YOU PRESENTED AS A VERY
21 REASONABLE CONTRACT. ANY CONTRACT LOOKS EXPENSIVE.
22 YOUR TWO CENTS OF HOW THE CIRM NEEDS THESE -- ALL;
23 THESE SERVICES, WHICH I UNDERSTAND LARGELY, BY THE
24 WAY.

25 MS. LEWIS: YES. BECAUSE THESE ARE KIND

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1 OF A SPECIALIZED SKILL, AND THAT'S WHY WE NEEDED THE
2 CONTRACTS. THESE ARE KIND OF A SKILL SET THAT'S
3 ABOVE AND BEYOND WHAT THE NORMAL I.T. STAFF COULD
4 PROVIDE.

5 DR. DULIEGE: OKAY. THANK YOU.

6 CHAIRPERSON GASSON: CAN YOU TURN OFF YOUR
7 SLIDE SO I CAN SEE EVERYBODY PLEASE. OKAY. THERE
8 WE GO. OKAY. IS THERE ANY OTHER DISCUSSION? IS
9 THERE ANY COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC? OKAY. HEARING
10 NONE, SCOTT, COULD YOU TAKE A ROLL CALL VOTE PLEASE.

11 MR. TOCHER: SURE. AND FOR THE RECORD,
12 MEMBERS ELENA FLOWERS AND ADRIANA PADILLA HAVE SINCE
13 JOINED THE MEETING.

14 SO THE MOTION IS TO APPROVE THE TWO
15 CONTRACTS.

16 KIM BARRETT.

17 DR. BARRETT: AYE.

18 MR. TOCHER: GEORGE BLUMENTHAL.

19 DR. BLUMENTHAL: YES.

20 MR. TOCHER: MARIA BONNEVILLE.

21 VICE CHAIR BONNEVILLE: YES.

22 MR. TOCHER: ANNE-MARIE DULIEGE.

23 DR. DULIEGE: YES.

24 MR. TOCHER: ELENA FLOWERS.

25 DR. FLOWERS: YES.

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1 MR. TOCHER: JUDY GASSON.

2 CHAIRPERSON GASSON: YES.

3 MR. TOCHER: VITO IMBASCIANI.

4 CHAIRMAN IMBASCIANI: YES.

5 MR. TOCHER: PAT LEVITT.

6 DR. LEVITT: YES.

7 MR. TOCHER: LINDA MALKAS.

8 DR. MALKAS: YES.

9 MR. TOCHER: ADRIANA PADILLA.

10 DR. PADILLA: YES.

11 MR. TOCHER: AND JOYCE SACKY.

12 DR. SACKY: YES.

13 MR. TOCHER: THANK YOU. AND THE MOTION

14 CARRIES.

15 CHAIRPERSON GASSON: EXCELLENT. SO WE CAN

16 MOVE ON TO ITEM NO. 4, WHICH IS CONSIDERATION OF

17 RECOMMENDATION FOR A COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR

18 THE ICOC CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND PRESIDENT AND CEO.

19 AND I WOULD ASK RAFAEL TO PLEASE MAKE THE

20 PRESENTATION.

21 MR. AGUIRRE-SACASA: SURE. THERE'S NO

22 PRESENTATION, JUDY AND BOARD MEMBERS, MEMBERS OF THE

23 PUBLIC. SO I'LL JUST TALK THROUGH THIS REAL

24 QUICKLY.

25 AS YOU PROBABLY REMEMBER, THE ICOC

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1 APPROVED THE NEW COMPENSATION POLICY LAST JUNE 27,
2 2024. ONE OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE POLICY IS THAT
3 IT PROVIDED FOR COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE
4 CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND PRESIDENT, WHO I AM
5 AFFECTIONATELY CALLING THE TRIO, AS LONG AS THE COLA
6 WAS APPROVED BY THE ICOC.

7 AS A CLARIFICATION, THE COLA IS
8 DISTINGUISHED FROM A MERIT SALARY ADJUSTMENT, WHICH
9 IS AWARDED TO CIRM EMPLOYEES BASED ON PERFORMANCE.
10 OBVIOUSLY THE COLA IS FOR A COST OF LIVING
11 ADJUSTMENT.

12 ON MAY 29TH, THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE
13 APPROVED THE ADMINISTRATION BUDGET THAT INCLUDED A
14 COLA OF 3 PERCENT FOR THE STAFF, FOR ALL STAFF, FOR
15 THE 25/26 FISCAL YEAR EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025.

16 THE COLA WAS BASED ON THE CONSUMER PRICE
17 INDEX FOR THE SF BAY AREA. AS THE GOVERNANCE
18 SUBCOMMITTEE IS TASKED WITH, AMONGST OTHER THINGS,
19 MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE COMPENSATION
20 FOR THE TRIO TO THE ICOC, WE ARE ASKING FOR AN
21 APPROVAL OF A COLA ADJUSTMENT OF 3 PERCENT, SAME AS
22 THE STAFF, FOR THE TRIO EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025.
23 THAT'S IT.

24 CHAIRPERSON GASSON: EXCELLENT. AT THIS
25 POINT I WOULD LIKE TO ENTERTAIN A MOTION AND A

1 SECOND.

2 DR. BARRETT: SO MOVED.

3 CHAIRPERSON GASSON: DO I HAVE A SECOND?

4 DR. BLUMENTHAL: SECOND.

5 CHAIRPERSON GASSON: THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

6 IS THERE ANY QUESTIONS OR DISCUSSION? PAT, YOU HAVE
7 YOUR HAND UP.

8 DR. LEVITT: I JUST WANT TO ASK MICHELLE.
9 THE DISCUSSION THAT WENT ON WITH THE STAFF WAS DONE
10 AT A TIME PRIOR TO MANY OF THE CHANGES DUE TO
11 BUDGETARY ISSUES IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND THE
12 FEDERAL BUDGET AS WELL THAT ARE IMPACTING THE STATE
13 OF CALIFORNIA IN SERIOUS WAYS. I'M JUST WONDERING
14 WHETHER AT THE STATE LEVEL ANY CHANGES WERE MADE IN
15 TERMS OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR, JUST AS AN EXAMPLE,
16 THERE ARE HIRING FREEZES. AND I DON'T KNOW IF THERE
17 ARE COLA'S OR MERIT FREEZES AT PRIVATE AND PUBLIC
18 INSTITUTIONS IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA THAT WENT
19 INTO EFFECT SOMETIME IN JANUARY, I THINK.

20 AND SO THE VAST MAJORITY OF ACADEMIC
21 MEDICAL CENTERS ARE LIVING UNDER THAT NOW WHERE THEY
22 WEREN'T BACK IN LAST JUNE OR LAST FALL. SO, RAFAEL,
23 DO YOU HAVE ANY MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WHETHER THE
24 STATE HAS MADE ANY COMMENTS ABOUT THIS?

25 MR. AGUIRRE-SACASA: NO, BUT OUR DIRECTOR

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1 OF HR DID DO A FAIR AMOUNT OF RESEARCH, PAT, ON
2 OTHER STATE AGENCIES THAT ARE SIMILARLY SITUATED TO
3 CIRM; I.E., NOT UNDER THE GOVERNOR'S DIRECT
4 ADMINISTRATION, IF YOU WILL. MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF
5 THOSE ARE KEEPING FORWARD WITH THEIR COLA
6 ADJUSTMENTS AND MERIT SALARY INCREASES, PAT. SO WE
7 FELT THAT IT WAS APPROPRIATE TO PRESENT IT TO YOU
8 ACCORDINGLY.

9 DR. LEVITT: OKAY. THANKS.

10 CHAIRPERSON GASSON: ANYONE ELSE ON THE
11 BOARD? ARE THERE ANY HANDS RAISED FROM THE PUBLIC?

12 MR. TOCHER: DOESN'T APPEAR SO.

13 CHAIRPERSON GASSON: OKAY. IN THAT CASE I
14 WOULD ASK IF YOU COULD PLEASE TAKE THE ROLL CALL
15 VOTE.

16 MR. TOCHER: KIM BARRETT.

17 DR. BARRETT: AYE.

18 MR. TOCHER: GEORGE BLUMENTHAL.

19 DR. BLUMENTHAL: YES.

20 MR. TOCHER: ANNE-MARIE DULIEGE.

21 DR. DULIEGE: YES.

22 MR. TOCHER: ELENA FLOWERS.

23 DR. FLOWERS: YES.

24 MR. TOCHER: JUDY GASSON.

25 CHAIRPERSON GASSON: YES.

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1 MR. TOCHER: PAT LEVITT.

2 DR. LEVITT: YES.

3 MR. TOCHER: LINDA MALKAS.

4 DR. MALKAS: YES.

5 MR. TOCHER: ADRIANA PADILLA.

6 DR. PADILLA: YES.

7 MR. TOCHER: AND JOYCE SACKY.

8 DR. SACKY: YES.

9 MR. TOCHER: THANK YOU VERY MUCH. THE
10 MOTION CARRIES.

11 CHAIRPERSON GASSON: OKAY. THAT CONCLUDES
12 THIS SESSION, AND WE'RE NOW GOING TO MOVE INTO A
13 CLOSED SESSION. AND I WOULD LIKE TO ASK SCOTT TO
14 READ THE JUSTIFICATION PLEASE.

15 MR. TOCHER: YES. WE'LL BE ADJOURNING TO
16 CLOSED SESSION FOR A DISCUSSION OF PERSONNEL
17 PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE 11126(A) AND HEALTH &
18 SAFETY CODE SECTION 125290.30(F)(3)(D). WITH THAT,
19 WE WILL SEE YOU IN CLOSED SESSION MOMENTARILY. YOU
20 SHOULD RECEIVE A LITTLE INVITATION BUTTON ON THE
21 ZOOM TO ENTER INTO THE BREAKOUT ROOM.

22 (THE COMMITTEE THEN WENT INTO CLOSED
23 SESSION, NOT REPORTED NOR HEREIN TRANSCRIBED. THE
24 FOLLOWING WAS THEN HEARD IN OPEN SESSION:)

25 CHAIRPERSON GASSON: WE ARE NOW BACK IN

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1 OPEN SESSION. AND I CAN REPORT THAT NO ACTION WAS
2 TAKEN IN THE CLOSED SESSION.

3 DO ANY MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE HAVE
4 ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AT THIS TIME FOR THE PUBLIC
5 PORTION OF THE MEETING? NO. OKAY. SEEING NO HANDS
6 RAISED, I THINK WE'RE ABLE TO ADJOURN -- SCOT.

7 MR. TOCHER: YEAH. JUST WANT TO ASK IF
8 THERE'S ANY PUBLIC COMMENT.

9 CHAIRPERSON GASSON: PUBLIC COMMENT.

10 MR. TOCHER: AND IT APPEARS THERE IS NONE,
11 AND NOW WE'RE READY, JUDY.

12 CHAIRPERSON GASSON: OKAY. SO WE'RE READY
13 TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THANK YOU ALL AGAIN FOR
14 YOUR TIME THIS AFTERNOON. AND I'LL SEE YOU AT THE
15 BOARD MEETING.

16 (THE MEETING WAS THEN CONCLUDED.)
17
18
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25

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, BETH C. DRAIN, A CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER IN AND FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING TRANSCRIPT OF THE VIRTUAL PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE GOVERNANCE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE INDEPENDENT CITIZEN'S OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE OF THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE IN THE MATTER OF ITS REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JUNE 10, 2025, WAS HELD AS HEREIN APPEARS AND THAT THIS IS THE ORIGINAL TRANSCRIPT THEREOF AND THAT THE STATEMENTS THAT APPEAR IN THIS TRANSCRIPT WERE REPORTED STENOGRAPHICALLY BY ME AND TRANSCRIBED BY ME. I ALSO CERTIFY THAT THIS TRANSCRIPT IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING.

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