HASC is helping to lead a coordinated response for the region as multiple hospitals and organizations act together to defeat COVID-19. As of Tuesday, April 14, we share the following efforts and actions.

**Surge Capacity**

- HASC member hospitals are moving to expand their capacity by 40 to 50 percent, to meet the larger surge scenarios. Our regional vice presidents, issue managers, subsidiaries and communications team are playing a lead role across the six counties and are in almost continual contact with local public health departments, county EMS agencies and local elected officials.

- In Riverside County, two Federal Medical Stations were delivered with a total of 250 beds. The first is now operational at the Indio fairgrounds. A FEMA team is working with the department of public health and the county’s emergency management department setting up the second site on the county’s west side.

- In San Bernardino County, surge capacity is being added at the Victorville fairgrounds and the Orange Show Fairgrounds (OSFG) to house post-acute patients.

- HASC and hospitals in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties are working closely with public health officials and EMS staff to ensure safe transport of long-term care patients to and from the hospital. Safe and timely discharging of non-acute patients continues to require the collaborative efforts of a broad coalition.

- Santa Barbara County is working toward standing up an alternate care site to assist with these patients. Hospitals in Ventura County are expanding their capacity to step-down care to sub-acute patients within the hospital campus.

- We’re in contact with the USNS Mercy hospital ship at San Pedro to help link its officers with the governor’s office, CHA and the region’s hospitals. We arranged for a CMO call with EMS and Navy representatives to review the criteria for patient transfers to USNS Mercy.

- HASC has been part of the discussion with Mayor Eric Garcetti regarding planning the development of the alternate care site at the Los Angeles Convention Center. This included arranging an onsite visit and soliciting feedback from our member hospitals to provide input to the city of Los Angeles.

- We facilitated a call between EMS agency and Antelope Valley area hospitals to discuss surge planning along with members of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

**Supplies**

- HASC is working with CHA, state and county EMS, and Los Angeles city contacts, to identify commercial vendors and donors of PPE and medical items for sites where supplies are low. HASC is supporting Logistics Victory Los Angeles (LoVLA), an initiative of the City of Los Angeles and the Port of Los Angeles designed to increase the supply chain and match available medical supplies with health care providers.
HASC Responses to COVID-19
Executive Summary: April 14, 2020

• HASC is a key member of a partnership led by The BizFed Institute and the 39 state senators and assemblymembers representing Los Angeles County. This unprecedented effort brings Los Angeles County, the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), and other labor unions together with the association to collect and distribute PPE and supplies.

• HASC is working with the City of Los Angeles (Port Authority) to establish a purchase order management system to link hospital needs with vendors that traditionally may not work with hospitals.

Workforce

• HASC’s Priority Workforce Job Portal has been deployed to serve as a central directory where member hospitals can post and fill high-demand positions. The portal displays jobs by county and redirects interested job seekers to the hospital’s job board to learn more about the job and to apply.

• With city and county jurisdictions, HASC is informing member hospitals of emergency childcare resources and providers available in their communities. Childcare is an important service that empowers health care workers at the front lines, and we are also supplying information to hospitals from the Department of Social Services regarding an emergency waiver that allows hospitals to create their own temporary employer-sponsored childcare.

• HASC is working to identify temporary housing for health care workers exposed to COVID-19 and at risk of developing the illness. There is also a specific need for housing for workers who are COVID-19 positive. As of April 9, the governor has announced a new site to assist workers with temporary housing, at www.caltravelstore.com.

• HASC successfully secured a hospital exemption for a proposed City of Los Angeles ordinance that enhanced paid sick leave for employees of larger employers.

Medi-Cal Managed Care

• HASC is in discussions with multiple Medi-Cal managed care plans to explore alternative financing for hospitals to improve cash flow. We have explored their willingness and ability to provide hospitals with utilization data to support lost revenue claims for the purpose of accessing the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund.

Behavioral Health

• In Ventura County, HASC is helping to create a workaround to current procedures requiring the transport of 5150 patients to hospitals for medical clearance. When appropriate, involuntary holds and voluntary patients could be transported by the county Crisis Team directly to psychiatric services for assessment and treatment. Bypassing EDs when medical treatment is not required would prevent additional exposures to COVID-19 and hasten access to psychiatric care.

• HASC conducted several phone calls and emails with multiple acute care hospitals regarding the
Department of Health Care Services Behavioral Health Pilot Project grant application, which embeds a behavioral health counselor within the emergency department. Originally due March 27, HASC reached out to DHCS requesting an extension due to COVID-19 shifting priorities. Consequently, DHCS provided a two-week extension.

AllHealth
• ButterFLi, a HASC Endorsed Business Partner, is transporting non-emergent patients, including patients who have tested positive for COVID-19. ButterFLi’s transportation services are available in select cities across HASC’s six-county area – and San Diego County. Learn more about ButterFLi by clicking here.

Click here for a list of cities ButterFLi serves.

HASC Annual Meeting
• Along with almost every other similar event in the U.S., we’ve canceled our annual meeting, originally planned for May 20-22. Our main concern is to protect everyone’s health and safety. We look forward to a reconvening in 2021.

Communities Lifting Communities
• Communities Lifting Communities, or CLC, is working to support hospitals and the communities they serve with a new collection of services. These include a COVID-19 HASC Member Hospital Survey to gauge various hospital needs during the crisis, COVID-19 Vendor Inquiries to gather information from vendors offering COVID-19 services and supplies, and COVID-19 Surge Models.

• CLC is sharing innovative solutions relevant to the current effort – including USC Verdugo Hills Hospital’s in-house grocery delivery service that saves employees time with shopping chores. Learn more about the program here: https://communities.hasc.org/post/filling-employee-needs-boosts-coronavirus-fight. To submit your hospital’s innovative story, contact CLC Executive Director Susan Harrington at sharrington@hasc.org.

• CLC asked members if they’ve changed labor, delivery or prenatal care policies for visitors and birthing partners in response to COVID-19. In general, hospitals are limiting visitors to one healthy support person to accompany laboring moms. CLC would like to be informed on your hospital’s policies in these areas. Again, please contact CLC Executive Director Susan Harrington at sharrington@hasc.org to submit information.

National Health Foundation
• National Health Foundation (NHF) has communicated to their hospital partners that its recuperative care sites remain open. The NHF intake team has simplified the patient referral process so it can receive a new patient within a matter of hours. In addition, NHF is now offering free transportation from the hospital to its facilities. NHF’s recuperative care centers are congregate in nature and therefore, patients who are pending COVID-19 testing or have tested positive are not appropriate for these services.
HASC Patient Access Services

• Understanding many patients may need help with health care coverage, food, and financial aid, HASC Patient Access Services (PAS) surveyed County Public Social Services departments, First 5 agencies, and local Offices of Aging. As a result, a resource brief was developed to help connect patients to social services within their communities.

• Connected with Local 211 agencies to support public information and community resource needs.

• In Orange County, coordinated a referral process to local diaper banks for families with newborns experiencing access challenges.

• HASC PAS has been in discussions with Department of Health Care Services, and County Public Social Service offices regarding Medi-Cal application procurement conducted by hospital staff and the use of an e-signature process due to application interviews currently taken telephonically.

• DHCS has been favorable with an e-signature process for Hospital Presumptive Eligibility (HPE) applications. However, full-scope Medi-Cal application e-signatures will require additional steps by hospital and county staff.

ReddiNet Emergency Communications System

• COVID-19 assessment polls are going out daily to hospitals as well as non-acute facilities from each of 20 ReddiNet counties’ EMS agencies and public health agencies. Each county has formulated questions based on CDPH criteria as well as local public health needs. More than 70 percent of hospitals are responding to these daily assessments.

• Hospitals are updating ReddiNet’s bed capacity module up to three times a day to provide an accurate database showing open and available beds by facility.

• Hospitals, non-acute facilities, and fire departments are using ReddiNet’s Resource Request Module to submit requests for PPE and other critical supplies. Over 4,000 requests had been received and processed as of last week.

• ReddiNet has activated over 10 alternative care sites and field medical sites in its database, including the USNS Mercy at San Pedro.

• Counties are using ReddiNet’s Mass Casualty Incident tool for tracking COVID-19 patients, as well as using ReddiNet’s Family Reunification Module to inform families of evacuees’ new locations.

• ReddiNet’s development team has completed many new urgent requests from customers so they can manage the response effort better.