

## Fire those in charge

Re "Patients fear trauma center loss":

I monitor the county Board of Supervisors with a great deal of frequency. At no time during the past 11 months has there been any mention that the trauma center at King/Drew Medical Center may need to be sacrificed in order to save the rest of the hospital.

Quite the contrary has occurred. Dr. Thomas Garthwaite and Fred Leaf have continually painted a picture of wholesale improvements at the hospital, and have justified the expenditure of over \$600,000 in a sole-vendor contract as being well spent since the consultants selected had done "miracles" turning around the nursing morale and skills.

This has been their response to the questions and concerns that I have brought up at board meetings for the past 11 months. So this recent turn of events can only lead me to believe that Dr. Garthwaite and Mr. Leaf have been less than truthful with the board and with the public.

When you read all the published reports over the past 11 months it is glaringly apparent that what has transpired at King/Drew is a massive failure of leadership. It was a failure of leadership that led the nurses to believe they could "misrepresent the patient's conditions and acuity" over 11 months ago, and there has been a continued failure of leadership on the part of the Department of Health Services and its director, Dr. Garthwaite.

Though the supervisors and some in the local press would like the public to believe otherwise, the recent failures can be laid directly at the feet of Dr. Garthwaite and his team of experts.

Before we spend what could in all likelihood be millions of dollars to turn around experts, I would highly advise the supervisors to first terminate those responsible for the most recent debacle. And just in case they are too clueless to understand what that means - simply put, fire Dr. Garthwaite, Fred Leaf, Dr. Runke, Dr. Peeks and terminate the contract of The Camden Group. All these individuals and groups had a hand in the recent failure and they should pay for their failures as anyone else would in the real world.

But then again it would take real leadership on the part of the Board of Supervisors to make such a sound decision, when it is much simpler to fire the "little fishes," close the trauma center, and let the public pay for the Board's mistakes once again.

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