

FINAL COPY
TORRANCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING
OCTOBER 29, 2025

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: RYAN SCHWEBACH –CHAIRMAN-**ABSENT**
KEVIN MCCALL- DISTRICT 1
LINDA JARAMILLO –DISTRICT 3

OTHERS PRESENT:

JORDAN BARELA-COUNTY MANGER
MISTY WITT-DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER
SYLVIA CHAVEZ-COUNTY CLERK
SENAIDA ANAYA – CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK
JUSTICE WIETZ – PLANNING & ZONING OFFICER

1.) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Commissioner McCall calls October 29, 2025, Commission Meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

2.) INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Pledge led by Commissioner McCall
Invocation led by Commissioner Jaramillo

3.) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

County Manager Barela states there are no changes to the agenda.

4.) ACTION ITEMS/MANAGER/HUMAN RESOURCES:

- a) Request Approval of an Award of Contract to United Health Care Pursuant to RFP #TC FY25-06-007 to Provide Fully Insured Medical and Prescription Drug Coverage for Torrance County and Authorization of Signature Authority to the County Manager Barela proposed transition to United Healthcare would broaden provider access, reduce premium costs, maintain deductibles, and provide national and expanded virtual care options. Slight increases in out-of-pocket maximums are offset by lower premiums. Decision required before November open enrollment.
- Key Points of Proposed Change:
- Network Expansion:
 - UHC offers a significantly larger provider network.
 - All Presbyterian, Lovelace, and UNMH hospitals would be in-network statewide.
 - Local providers in Torrance County (e.g., Duke City Healthcare, PMS) would also become in-network.
 - Plan Options:

- Current plan: HMO (cheaper, limited network) and PPO (more expensive, broader network).
- New UHC plan: Two PPO options—both broader in-network coverage, with different premium levels.
- Cost Impact:
 - “Cheaper” PPO option → 6.4% premium reduction.
 - “More expensive” PPO option → 9% premium reduction.
- Coverage Advantages:
 - National coverage for out-of-state medical needs.
 - Expanded virtual care—primary, urgent care, and specialist visits covered virtually.
- Deductibles & Out-of-Pocket Costs:
 - Deductibles remain unchanged.
 - Out-of-pocket maximums increase by \$500 (individual) and \$1,000 (family) annually.
 - Overall employee cost impact expected to balance out due to lower monthly premiums.

Commissioner McCall raised the question regarding whether today’s vote to move to United Healthcare would place the county directly under contract and if further action would be required in January.

County Manager Barela: No additional ratification or action will be needed in January; today’s vote finalizes the contract with United Healthcare. County Manager Barela stated that this determination authorizes staff to proceed with executing the contract with United Healthcare. The contract must be finalized promptly to ensure United Healthcare representatives are present for open enrollment on November 17 and to allow sufficient time for coordination and implementation.

Commissioner Jaramillo expressed support for the proposed change, stating that the plan sounds very favorable and that, if not covered by Medicare, she would gladly choose this insurance option personally.

ACTION TAKEN: Commissioner McCall makes a motion to approve. **Commissioner Jaramillo** seconds the motion. All in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

b.) **MANAGER: Request Delegation of Signature Authority to the County Manager to Execute a Contract Amendment Between Torrance County and the U.S. Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement if the Contract Amendment is Received Prior to the End of the Current Contract Term.**

County Manager Barela provided background on the current ICE agreement, which is set to expire on October 31 (end of the week). As of the meeting date, no amendment to extend the contract has been received, though discussions are ongoing and ICE is reportedly preparing a 30-day contract amendment.

The County Manager noted potential delays possibly related to the federal government shutdown. Since there may not be time to present the amendment to the Commission before expiration, the request is for the Commission to delegate signature authority to the County Manager to execute the amendment if it is received before the deadline. If it arrives after the expiration date, the amendment will need to be returned to the Commission for formal approval.

Commissioner McCall raised the question: How long can it lapse for?

County Manager Barela clarified that if a lapse in the contract term occurs, county revenue from the agreement would be paused and could not be distributed to Core Civic for services during that period. This situation would remain in effect for the duration of any lapse.

Commissioner Jaramillo asked if services would continue for everyone in there?

County Manager Barela reported having discussions with the facility, noting that contract lapses are not uncommon. While he could not speak definitively on behalf of the facility, it is expected that services would continue for a period even if the contract temporarily lapses.

ACTION TAKEN: Commissioner McCall makes a motion to approve. Commissioner Jaramillo seconds the motion. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

5.) ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

November 12, 2025, at the Torrance County Administrative Building at 9:00 AM

***ADJOURN**

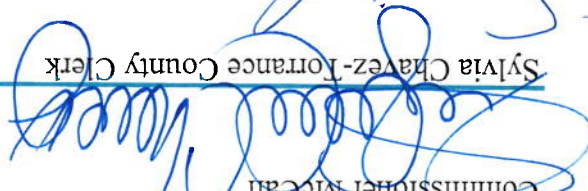
ACTION TAKEN: Chairman McCall makes a motion to adjourn the October 29, 2025 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Jaramillo seconds the motion. No further discussion, all Commissioners in favor. MOTION CARRIED

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:12 A.M.

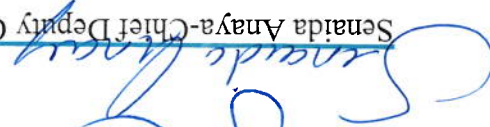
6.) SIGNING OF OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS



Commissioner McCall



Sylvia Chavez-Torres County Clerk



Senaida Araya-Chief Deputy Clerk

11/12/2005
Date

*If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing(s) or meeting(s), please contact the Manager's Office at 505-544-4700 at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact the Manager's Office at the number listed above if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.