

EDITORIAL

dailynews.com
Wednesday 04/16/08

Another sycophant

Re "Chernof to focus on care of seniors" (April 12):

With a looming \$700 million deficit, the closure of King-Harbor Hospital, the recent reports of incidences at Harbor-UCLA and the continued delays to the completion of the new County-USC Hospital, I'm not surprised that Dr. Chernof has decided to cut and run. Dr. Chernof's brief tenure has been remarkable only in its ability to continue the fine tradition of inept and incompetent management of his predecessor.

I wonder whom they will choose to replace Chernof. Will it be another sycophant or will they finally hold a national search and find someone who'll really show some backbone and lead the department?

— GENEVIÈVE M. CLAVREUL
Pasadena

TODAY'S
FORECAST



Sunny skies,
warm

High 88 — Low 54
Details: C10

Friday
April 11, 2008

50 Cents

★Designated areas higher

Daily News

DailyNews.com

Highest-paid county official resigns as head of health services

Daily News

Dr. Bruce Chernof, the highest-paid county official as head of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, announced his resignation Thursday.

Chernof, who took over the department in 2006 after the resignation of Thomas Garthwaite, said he will head a new private foundation.

Chernof was the fourth director to hold the job since 1995, when the

health department's financial woes nearly dragged the county into bankruptcy. He also became the highest-paid county official, earning \$323,906 last year.

"It has been a remarkable journey that I have shared with my 21,000 DHS colleagues," Chernof said in a statement.

"Although some people consider this the most difficult job in health care, they don't get to see firsthand the outstanding doctors, nurses and

other staff who care for the residents of the county with compassion, clinical excellence and commitment."

He inherited various problems, including unusually high patient deaths at Martin Luther King Jr.-Drew Medical Center and a \$1.4 billion deficit.

Earlier this year, Chernof and his staff were berated by the county Board of Supervisors after presenting a plan that involved closing all but one of the county's dozen health clinics in a \$291 million department shortfall. Also under Chernof, emergency room operations ceased at King-Harbor Hospital after the center failed a critical inspection by state regulators.

Chernof plans to be the founding chief executive officer of a foundation that will focus on information technology, education, research and policy related to health care for senior citizens.

Officials did not say who will replace him.