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L.A. County unaware how many temporary healthcare workers lack background checks

The admission comes as supervisors suspend the contract for one of the county's largest temp agencies over the placement of a convicted rapist at a large health clinic.

By Garrett Therolf
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Los Angeles County officials said Tuesday that they do not know how many of the 2,000 temporary workers serving patients at county hospitals and clinics each month are working without a criminal background check. The acknowledgment came as the county suspended the contract for one of its largest providers of temporary healthcare professionals, a move made because the agency placed a convicted rapist at a large East Los Angeles health clinic.

"This is an issue that aside from being just a gross embarrassment, it was absolutely irresponsible," County Chief Executive William T Fujioka told county supervisors during a contentious meeting that was recorded by a bank of television cameras.

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