



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

June 4, 2014

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer
Robin Kay for
Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.
Director of Mental Health

Board of Supervisors
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First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

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Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

REPORT BACK ON PREVENTING A MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE REDUCTION FOR DOWNTOWN RESIDENTS (ITEM NO. 55, AGENDA OF MAY 20, 2014)

On May 20, 2014, a Motion presented by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas directed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to work with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to report back every two weeks regarding the identification of appropriate alternative sites for the provision of DMH CalWORKs services, Wellness Clinical Team services, and Prevention and Early Intervention programs that were relocated from the Little Tokyo Lofts (LTL) site, so that no service delivery delays or reductions will occur for the County residents originally targeted for services. Every two weeks written updates will be provided to the Board until alternative sites are identified and opened for services.

Since the action of the Board on May 13, 2014, to relocate DMH services from LTL, CEO Real Estate Division (CEO-RED) has located office space for the CalWORKs services within the Leavey Community Health Center, currently leased by the County, which is located at 522 San Pedro Street. CalWORKs serves clients that have ongoing treatment needs. The movement of staff to this location will allow their treatment to continue without interruption. The Leavey site is currently available, but has limited clinical space which will allow clients to continue to be treated, but they will be seen less frequently. Currently each CalWORKs client is seen approximately 20 times each year. With limited space, the average number of visits may decrease to approximately 15 per year. However, in order to compensate, DMH will attempt to arrange shorter visits and staff will maintain more frequent telephone contact with each client. Services to CalWORKs clients are set to begin on July 1, 2014, in the Leavey location.

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In addition, DMH and CEO-RED have worked together to identify space for the Wellness Teams in the temporary modular office space currently targeted to be operational by July 1, 2014, located at 640 and 646 South Maple Avenue. The modular office will house the Downtown Mental Health Clinic (DMHC) during the renovation of its current location at 529 South Maple Avenue. Although client services will not be interrupted, this facility also has limited clinical space availability that will reduce the frequency of client visits from approximately 14 visits per year to approximately 11 visits per year. As with the CaWORKs program, DMH will attempt to arrange shorter visits, maintain contact with clients by telephone and will develop off-site Wellness activities in order to preserve client services to the greatest extent possible.

Recognizing the clinical space limitations in both the Leavey and modular office space locations, CEO-RED will continue to search for alternative space for the CaWORKs and Wellness Teams that will not require a reduction in client visits. Our bi-weekly reports to the Board will document our efforts throughout the service area.

In contrast to the CaWORKs and Wellness Teams, clients served in Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) programs receive short-term services. DMH plans to complete the treatment of existing clients by July 1, 2014. CEO-RED has not identified space for this program, but is actively searching each day. Over the past two weeks the following properties were assessed as potential relocation sites for the PEI program:

- 1813 East Washington Boulevard – Staff has toured the site, however, the ownership has been non-responsive regarding our desire to enter into a lease for DMH services. We will continue to reach out to them.
- 543 South Crocker Street – The Volunteers of America (VOA) facility was toured with DMH and the First District. An invitation has been extended to staff of the Second District to tour with DMH. The site presents some challenges in separating the existing and ongoing homeless veterans and women's bed facilities from clients to be served in the PEI program. Further evaluation of the suitability of the site and discussions with VOA is required.
- 415 South San Pedro Street – The property is in escrow as an investment property.
- 621 South Maple Avenue – [Former Greyhound/Rapid Transit District (RTD) station covering the entire City block] – Staff has toured the 3,100 square foot storefront with building management for housing the PEI program. Discussions continue with the property management for the possibility of a temporary two-year lease until completion of the renovation of the DMHC.

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- 4th Place – This property is located across the street from the Department Public Social Services facility on 4th and Hewitt. It is listed for lease with the Piken Company, but they have been non-responsive. We will continue to reach out to them for a tour and discussion.
- 415 East 6th Street – Investors are in escrow to purchase the building and they are planning major renovations to the building, estimated to be completed within two years. Preliminary discussions with the prospective owners indicate they are very receptive to housing all three of the DMH programs. If constructive discussions can continue, this facility could be available at the same time as the DMHC is completed, allowing future skid row DMH program services to be provided in strategically located satellite space near the renovated DMHC.

With regard to status of the LTL site, the CEO and DMH have worked closely with one another to implement the transition of the leased space in the LTL to administrative staff use. The new tenant improvement administrative plans have been completed and are in the design and permitting phase. It is estimated that construction will commence by mid-July for later relocation of other DMH administrative staff. The CEO has made contact with the LTL facility management and it has agreed to distribute a letter being prepared by the CEO to all residents informing them of the Board's action to utilize the leased space on the ground floor of the building for DMH administrative staff use only. In addition, that letter will invite residents to a meeting with County staff of the CEO, DMH, and Sheriff to discuss any concerns regarding the County's occupancy in the Little Tokyo Lofts. The letter is targeted for transmittal to the LTL facility management by June 16, 2014.

The CEO and DMH continue to follow every lead possible to find alternative space for client services. Although we have an immediate solution for the CalWORKs and Wellness Clinical Teams, we continue to search for more suitable accommodations to provide the optimum level of services required.

If you have questions, your staff may contact Rita Robinson at (213) 893-2477, or email rrobinson@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:MJS
RLR:RK:os

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel