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October 15, 2015

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Sheryl L. Spiller, Director

SUBJECT: MOTION BY SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EXPRESS LANE ENROLLMENT PROJECT (ITEM NO. 2, JUNE 4, 2014)

This is to provide you with our monthly status report on the Department of Public Social Services' (DPSS) progress in implementing the Express Lane Medi-Cal (ELMC) Project to provide Medi-Cal coverage to CalFresh participants. Below is a summary of our outreach efforts and data on the number of enrollments.

On June 4, 2014, on a motion by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, the Board instructed the Director of DPSS to fully implement the Express Lane streamlined eligibility process described in the State Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) All County Welfare Directors Letter and the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services Guidance. DPSS was instructed to report back to the Board in writing within 60 days and monthly thereafter.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

As of September 30, 2015, according to DHCS, 40,603 CalFresh participants were enrolled in ELMC in Los Angeles County. Please note that the number of CalFresh participants enrolled in ELMC changes each month; individuals exit when they are approved for Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) Medi-Cal, when their CalFresh case is closed, or when they are no longer eligible to ELMC. Therefore, some CalFresh participants identified in our previous report may no longer be enrolled in ELMC, but may continue to have Medi-Cal coverage.

DPSS continues to offer eligible participants the opportunity to opt-in during every point of contact by phone or in-person, particularly during their CalFresh recertification interviews. During September 2015, we outreached to 1,650 CalFresh households who do not already have Medi-Cal to encourage enrollment into ELMC. As a result, 1,398

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CalFresh participants opted to enroll in ELMC. Also, to date 4,519 responded to our outreach mailer, and 1,992 CalFresh participants were subsequently enrolled in ELMC. Of those who declined, the main stated reasons included: other healthcare coverage, only want CalFresh benefits, will apply for ELMC later, and not interested. Please note that we inadvertently reported that 4,999 participants responded to the mailer in our September report. The actual number of respondents to the mailer was 4,419.

Additionally, the Department of Health and Human Services released a policy letter allowing states to apply for an extension of the Express Lane Waiver beyond December 31, 2015. DHCS is exploring the possibility of pursuing the waiver extension and will provide counties with an update once a decision has been reached. We will report the outcome of the Waiver request in our next update.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (562) 908-8383, or your staff may contact Jose R. Perez, Assistant Director, at (562) 908-8633, or via email at joseperez@dpss.lacounty.gov.

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c: Interim Chief Executive Officer
Acting Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Interim County Counsel