

AGN. NO.
May 17, 2016

MOTION BY CHAIR HILDA L. SOLIS AND SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

EXAMINATION OF COUNTY FUNDS SPENT ON HOMELESS

On February 9, 2016, the County approved a plan to address homeless, dedicating \$100 million in one-time funding. On the same day, a letter to Board of Supervisors from the Chief Executive Office (CEO) included a report prepared by the CEO's Research and Evaluation Services (RES). Findings from that report estimate that nearly \$1 billion per year is spent by six County departments to provide services to single homeless adults.

The report entitled, *The Services Homeless Single Adults Use and their Associated Costs*, found that in FY 2014-2015, the County's Departments of Health Services (DHS), Mental Health (DMH), Public Health (DPH), and Public Social Services (DPSS), the Sheriff, and the Probation Department spent an estimated total of \$965 million in providing services and benefits to homeless single adults. The report also estimates that roughly one-third of the spending across five of the six agencies, specifically \$228.6 million out of \$710 million, was Net County Cost (NCC) for FY 2014-2015.

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Analysis of the data suggests that 40 cents of every dollar spent on the full population served only five percent of the homeless single adult population in the entire County. As such, the County should focus on efforts that will effectively identify and assist this small high-utilizing population. This will allow for existing funding to be used to support additional homeless individuals, families, and youth and is in alignment with the County's focus on Medi-Cal expansion, jail and emergency room diversion. It will also provide more support to those who need mental health services, substance use disorder treatment, job placement and employment, as we examine how existing general funds can be more effectively spent to decrease homelessness overall.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the CEO's RES Unit to work with DHS, DMH, DPH, DPSS, the Sheriff's and Probation Departments to examine how County funds that go towards homeless services each year are spent, provide additional data and analysis, with a particular focus on the resources allotted to the five percent of homeless single adults that utilize 40% of this funding, and report back in 90 days with a plan that focuses on this challenging population, in order to direct more effective spending on an ongoing basis to reduce overall homelessness in Los Angeles County.

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HLS: jyp