Health Agency

September 26, 2016

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

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"The mission of the Los Angeles County Health Agency is to improve health and wellness across Los Angeles County through effective, integrated, comprehensive, culturally appropriate services, programs, and policies that promote healthy people living in healthy communities."

To: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: Mitchell H. Katz, MD
Director

RE: **LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTED DIVERSION PILOT PROGRAM (ITEM NO. 2, AGENDA OF AUGUST 2, 2016 BOARD MEETING)**

This memo is to provide an overview of the planning process for developing a Los Angeles County Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Pilot Program. The purpose of the program is to improve public safety and reduce recidivism by increasing the availability and use of social service resources while reducing costs to law enforcement agencies and courts stemming from repeated incarceration.

On August 2, 2016, the Board approved the following motion:

1) Direct the Director of the Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR), as part of the work through their Permanent Steering Committee, in collaboration with the Sheriff, other interested law enforcement agencies, County Counsel, District Attorney, interested City Attorneys, Public Defender, Alternate Public Defender, the Directors of the Health Agency, Department of Public Health (DPH), Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), Department of Community and Senior Services (CSS), and key community partners, to report back in 45 days with a process and schedule for collaborating to prepare an application for forthcoming State grant funds to expand upon diversion services and programs that emphasize counseling, treatment, and behavior modification over punitive measures. This should include a plan for assessing need in the County around diversion, both geographical and based on offense, and receiving community input to develop a proposal that can have the greatest impact around reducing incarceration, promoting public safety, and promoting effective use of public funds; and

2) Direct ODR, in collaboration with key County and community partners, to assess additional ways to expand and provide long-term, sustainable funding options for diversion programs, including any program that is proposed as part of the LEAD pilot program,

and report to the Board in writing in 60 days with their recommendations.

3) Also, ODR, in collaboration with key County and community partners, was instructed to conduct an assessment of existing LEAD efforts underway in the County since 2015, such as the San Fernando Valley Law Enforcement assisted Diversion Pilot Program, and ascertain how ODR can best support these existing projects, and report back to the Board in writing in 60 days with their findings.

Directive #1

In response to this request, ODR, on behalf of the Director of the Health Agency, convened two county-wide stakeholder meetings with representation from the Sherriff Department, DHS Housing for Health, DPH Substance Abuse Prevention and Control program, DMH, CSS, DPSS, County Counsel, District Attorney's Office, Public Defender, Alternate Public Defender, Los Angeles City Police Department, Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Drug Policy Alliance, community based organizations, and substance use treatment providers. The stakeholder group meetings included a review of the LEAD model, stakeholder priorities and recommendations, and large group discussions about the Los Angeles County pilot planning process. The stakeholder group will meet regularly throughout the planning process.

Challenges

There are challenges in determining the locations of the pilot programs. The success of LEAD depends on community capacity, such as local need, resources, and partnerships between law enforcement and the community. We will be using law enforcement data on arrests throughout the City and County to select a short list of sites. An advisory subgroup of the stakeholders group will be meeting to determine what measures to use in assessing community capacity for sites under consideration.

Ultimately, ODR cannot plan the pilot program until the Request for Proposals (RFP) is released in November. We cannot define the core partnerships between agencies until we know which specific offenses will be eligible for participation. The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) will make this and other decisions that will affect pilot partnerships and design when they make their final decision public in the Request for Proposals.

Pilot Program Development Timeline

9/29/16	Data compiled by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department on potentially eligible arrests will be made available to ODR.
9/29/16	ODR will determine a short list of sites for the pilot program.

9/30/16	A stakeholder advisory group will compile a list of considerations to determine community capacity to create and sustain the pilot program.
10/16-12/16	A series of community meetings will be convened at sites under consideration to assess interest and community capacity to support and sustain a LEAD program.
11/14/16	The BSCC Request for Proposals is released.
1/2/17-3/1/17	Site planning process, which will involve convening local stakeholders, holding meetings where the group will determine the content of their partnership agreement, resources in place and those that need to be enhanced to support LEAD and their program model.
2/1/17	Proposals due to BSCC.
5/15/17	Program launch.

Directive #2

ODR collaborates with various foundations and government funding partners to support and expand its diverse portfolio of diversion and reentry programs. The process of identifying long term, sustainable funding support for these projects will depend on the success of each individual program and opportunities in a rapidly evolving funding environment. ODR will monitor federal, state, and local public funding as well as foundation and other non-governmental support options.

LEAD program funding, beyond BSCC pilot funding, will depend on the design of the program. In order to design the pilot program, we need to resolve two key issues 1) which charged offenses will be eligible for diversion and 2) the location(s) of the Los Angeles County pilot program. Once these critical decisions are made, ODR can begin to assess long-term, sustainable funding options for the program during the pilot phase and beyond. ODR plans to provide another update on this directive in December 2016.

Directive #3

LEAD and similar diversion efforts in the county are at various stages in the planning and implementation process. The City of Los Angeles' pilot program in South Los Angeles is already underway, the San Fernando Valley group, including the Drug Policy Alliance, have convened large stakeholder meetings, the Long Beach Health Department and local law enforcement are in agreement that they are interested in pursuing a LEAD program and are in the preliminary stages of the planning process.

Presentations about the San Fernando Valley and South LA projects were made at the Los Angeles County LEAD stakeholders meetings. There are open invitations to Santa Monica and any other entities to present to the group or meet with ODR staff to discuss their programs and visions.

The decision about where to develop LEAD pilot sites location(s) will be based on law enforcement generated arrest data and the advisory group's assessment of community capacity to support and sustain the project.

If the sites selected for the Los Angeles County pilot program do not correspond with existing efforts, ODR will continue to support their work. Any other LEAD effort will be offered technical support including assistance planning and engaging local stakeholders and ODR will actively participate in the meetings and processes as requested. ODR plans to provide another update on this directive in December 2016 as well.

We thank you for the opportunity to come together as a county family of departments to discuss an important issue with a profound impact on our courts, jails and communities. If you have any questions, please contact me or Peter Espinoza, Director of the Office of Diversion and Reentry, at pespinoza2@dhs.lacounty.gov.

cc: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
ODR Permanent Steering Committee