

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS**

**NOVEMBER 1, 2016**

**Facilitating the Employment of Qualified Community Health Workers in the Whole Person Care Program (Related to Agenda Item #56-E)**

The Los Angeles County Whole Person Care Waiver program will target five high-need Medi-Cal populations: 1) homeless high risk; 2) re-entry; 3) serious mental illness high-risk; 4) substance use disorder (SUD) high-risk; and 5) complex medical populations. If targeted benchmarks are met, the waiver is worth \$450M over five years.

Among other things, this waiver program seeks to employ community health workers (CHWs) who have “lived experience” in the criminal justice system to help engage WPC participants with health care support programs. CHWs who work under the supervision of a social worker will accompany and navigate enrollees through the community-based health and social support systems. They will help clients connect to critical services, navigate care and overcome challenges when they arise. Studies show that CHWs with a history of incarceration can build trust with patients and act as

- MORE -

MOTION

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

KUEHL \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
NOVEMBER 1, 2016  
PAGE 2**

cultural interpreters to enhance engagement to help break the cycle of repeat incarceration.

**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** direct the Chief Executive Officer, County Counsel and the Directors of Human Resources and the Department of Health Services Departments to work together to develop any needed recommended County policy changes that are required to facilitate the prompt hiring of otherwise qualified community health workers with “lived experience” to support the Whole Person Care waiver and report back in writing 30 days. This report back should include a discussion of: a) any potential strategies where “lived experience” might be considered a desired qualification so that the best and most qualified individuals are selected for these positions; and b) the impact that any policy changes would have on how County-funded private contractors recruit staff to work on County initiatives, such as the Whole Person Care initiative.

**###**

(YV)