

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

February 21, 2017

One of the great strengths of Los Angeles County is our highly diverse multi-cultural community – a community that is continuously evolving. Given our constantly changing demographics, County Departments must strive to ensure that disparities in service provision are regularly identified and addressed. The Asian Pacific Islander (API) community is one of the most rapidly growing within Los Angeles County. However, despite the fact that API residents account for 15 percent of the County's population, API consumers represent only 5.38 percent of consumers served in Mental Health Services Act funded Community Services and Support (CSS) programs and 2.64 percent of the consumers served in Prevention and early Intervention programs. Overall, API consumers represent approximately 4.7 percent of the Department of Mental Health clients served annually.

Since the passage of the Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) in November, 2004, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) has partnered with stakeholders in an effort to address disparities. Successful efforts have included the Integrated Services Model, one component of the Department's Innovations Program. Through this approach, culturally adapted outreach and engagement efforts ensured

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that members of the API community received appropriate integrated mental health and either physical health care or substance use services, including non-traditional services and supports sensitive to the specific preferences of those being served. The Department of Mental Health has also funded numerous and continues to fund other API initiatives that focus on outreaching and reducing mental health stigma in these communities. Over the past several months, DMH has met with its providers, including contracted and directly operated agencies that serve the API communities, to implement activities to increase services not only to the API communities but to other underserved ethnic and cultural communities. These activities would allow the expansion of the services available to the API communities by adding new community based organizations to provide prevention services and appropriately allocated funding to provide school-based and school-linked services, serving the uninsured, etc.

The efforts described above, along with the following recommendations, will demonstrate the County's commitment to reducing disparities for one of its most vulnerable populations.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Direct the Director of Mental Health to include in the Mental Health Services Act Three Year Plan, which is currently in development, recommendations on outreach strategies to address the needs of the API community for mental health services commensurate with the mental health services to the County-wide population over the next five years. A recommendation should address appropriate allocations for CSS funding for individuals with serious mental illness and MHSA Prevention and Early Intervention funding in all age groups; and

- 2) Require the Department of Mental Health to conduct an evaluation to determine the specific areas of geographic and programmatic disparities in order to develop a targeted outreach strategy for addressing the needs of the API population and;
- 3) Require the Director of Mental Health or his staff to collaborate with groups that provide mental health services to the API population to enhance existing successful outreach approaches and identify new strategies for decreasing disparities in mental health care among this population including the option of expanding the service delivery network; and
- 4) Report back to this Board in ninety days regarding these efforts.

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