

REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISORS SHEILA KUEHL  
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November 7, 2017

**Enhanced Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence Coordination  
Infrastructure**

In 1979, the County Board of Supervisors established the County's Domestic Violence Council (DVC). The DVC is comprised of representatives from public, private and non-profit entities, such as County Departments, shelter providers, community-based organizations, and law enforcement agencies. In addition to its general membership, the DVC has an Executive Board and standing committees. The DVC does not have an elected Chair. Instead, in accordance with the bylaws, the DVC is chaired by a representative from the County's District Attorney's Office who also serves as the chair of the Executive Board of the DVC. The work of the DVC is supported by 1.5 full-time staff from the County's Executive Office funded by the Department of Public Social Services.

The DVC and the Executive Board meet monthly and the standing committees meet on a regular basis as needed. The DVC has provided a forum to raise public awareness and the opportunity for exchange of information between public, private, and non-profit organizations that seek to prevent, serve, provide resources to, and support survivors of Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence (DV/IPV).

MOTION

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When the DVC was established, the prevailing wisdom was that the justice domain was the best framework within which to address DV/IPV issues. That view has since evolved and it is now broadly accepted that DV/IPV is essentially a public health issue and should be addressed within a public health framework. Therefore, in order to fulfill the DVC's mission and to improve and coordinate the County's response to DV/IPV, a sustained focus is required along with enhanced collaboration among County Departments and our community partners – a focus and collaboration implemented through a public health lens.

On February 9, 2016, October 18, 2016, and again on May 16, 2017, the Board of Supervisors directed various efforts to assess DV/IPV practices within Los Angeles County. A January 9, 2017 report to the Board included recommendations regarding how the County could most effectively prevent/reduce the incidence of homelessness resulting from DV/IPV. A March 8, 2017 report included recommendations related to leveraging technology and enhancing coordination to ensure that DV/IPV information produced by County Departments is current, accurate and multi-lingual.

In addition, a July 19, 2017 report regarding DV/IPV included recommendations regarding increasing and enhancing the levels of the staff supporting the DVC to foster the ability of the DVC and its Executive Director to make and implement policy decisions and better manage coordination of effort among various Departments engaged in the education, prevention, and response to DV/IPV. That report further recommended a shared funding model, whereby the cost of the enhanced and restructured staff supporting the DVC is shared among several Departments, with high levels of involvement with preventing and mitigating DV/IPV, and serving DV/IPV survivors. Finally, a September 7, 2017 report recommended the DVC identify metrics for reporting on DV/IVP outcomes, and develop and maintain a single location or

dashboard to collect and provide access to DV/IPV data for decision making and ongoing monitoring.

Implementation of these recommendations will help improve DV/IPV prevention, identification and referral to appropriate resources, and improve service delivery to DV/IPV survivors. However, successful implementation will depend on a DVC Executive Director, working with the DVC to accomplish different and/or expanded goals listed below:

- Better coordinate DV/IPV work among departments, commissions, workgroups, etc.;
- Strengthen relationships with community-based providers to ensure better service delivery, especially for the most unserved and underserved populations;
- Leverage technology to disseminate accurate and more timely information to DV/IPV survivors and DV/IPV service providers;
- Better standardized data collection;
- Establish and maintain better relationships and collaboration with philanthropy;
- Engage in internal and external policy efforts, by representing both survivors and service providers in County committees, projects and initiatives, and;
- Explore ways to increase resources to serve survivors of DV/IPV, including older survivors.

In order to support both a prevention and enhanced survivor-centered countywide coordinated approach with County departments and public/private sectors, the DVC Executive Director should chair DVC meetings and engage stakeholders, including

philanthropy and academia where appropriate, when determining how to implement the goals referenced above. Moreover, the structure frequency and content of meetings should be analyzed and reviewed to ensure that time invested attending translates to moving this issue forward. Along with the Executive Director, County and community stakeholders should play a central role in developing a working structure for the DVC and its Executive Board, and in setting and prioritizing deliverables developed in response to the DVC survey results summarized in the memo jointly prepared by the Executive Office of the Board and the Chief Executive Office and issued on July 19, 2017. County and community DVC members shall work in partnership to create a representative council that leads in prevention, identification and addressing DV/IPV, and is responsive to emerging needs. The DVC shall use the talents, skills and expertise of community and County leaders to create both an effective framework and a mechanism to better meet the DV/IPV needs of the County.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Officer to take the following actions:

- 1) Transfer the support and oversight of DVC functions from the Board Executive Office to the Department of Public Health;
- 2) Make necessary staffing increases, commensurate with the enhanced role of the staff supporting the DVC, by approving interim ordinance authority, pursuant to Section 6.06.020 of the County Code, for one full-time Deputy Executive Officer (U) position, one full-time Health Program Analyst III, and one full-time Staff Assistant II position in the Department of Public Health, subject to allocation by the Chief Executive Office, Classifications Division; and
- 3) Ensure that the cost of the funding for the expanded and enhanced

complement of staff that will support the DVC will be shared equally on an ongoing basis between the Departments of Children and Family Services, Public Health, and Public Social Services, Probation, and Sheriff, District Attorney, Public Defender and Alternate Public Defender, and include the necessary funding adjustments in the CEO's mid-year budget adjustment and in future budget phases, as needed.

**WE FURTHER MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct:

- 1) The Department of Public Health, in oversight of the Executive Director and the DVC, to:
  - a) Implement the recommendations contained in the previous Board reports dated January 9, 2017, March 8, 2017, July 19, 2017 and September 7, 2017;
  - b) Conduct an assessment of the current DVC composition and structure, including that of the Executive Board, and submit a written report to the Board within 90 days after the appointment of the DVC executive Director, containing findings and recommendations on any changes necessary to better position the DVC to address DV/IPV through a public health lens, including a review of whether the Chair of the DVC should be the Executive Director or an elected representative of the community; and recommendations on whether the Departments of Children and Family Services and Public Social Services should become standing members of the Executive Board; and
  - c) Work with County Counsel to update and revise the current DVC by-laws to reflect any changes in structure, composition or where

necessary to effectuate the Board's desire to view and address DV/IPV issues effectively within a public health framework.

- 2) The Departments of Health Services, Public Health, Mental Health, Public Social Services, Children and Family Services, Probation, and Sheriff, as well as the District Attorney, the Public Defender's Office, the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles, and Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, and Alternate Public Defender to assign an appropriately senior representative to the Council who is able to actively participate, champion and represent their respective Department's or organization's planned activities with respect to DV/IPV-related programs and services.;
- 3) The DVC, through its Executive Director, to report back annually to the Board describing strategic initiatives and accomplishments and outcome metrics.
- 4) The Board Executive Officer to begin the recruitment process for the Executive Director position upon successful allocation of the revised position by the CEO.