

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND
KATHRYN BARGER**

May 29, 2018

Implementing Recommendations to Enhance Veteran Peer Access Network

On February 6, 2018, the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved a motion by Supervisors Ridley-Thomas and Barger that directed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Health Agency Department Directors, in coordination with the Executive Director of the Community Development Commission of the County of Los Angeles (Commission) and the Director of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, and in consultation with the Director of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Director of the Veteran Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System and relevant non-profit stakeholders, to report back in writing in 90 days on a plan to establish a veteran peer access network in Los Angeles County (County), as well as recommendations for an enriched set of resources seamlessly accessible to the veteran peer network, including health and mental health care, substance abuse treatment, legal services and housing.

In preparing the response, the CEO and the Health Agency Department Directors consulted with multiple County Departments, housing development and homeless service agencies, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, non-profit veteran serving and advocacy organizations, philanthropic institutions, and academia. In many instances, veterans who worked in these organizations provided key feedback and information. Subsequently, on May 4, 2018, the Board received a detailed report with

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MOTION

SOLIS _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

HAHN _____

BARGER _____

KUEHL _____

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recommended next steps, including appointing the Department of Mental Health (DMH) as the Health Agency lead for this initiative and granting authority to the Health Agency lead to initiate efforts to identify and advance the use of County funds in concert with other local, State and Federal contributions to expand housing resources and begin the process of identifying County resources through departments and entities represented on the ad hoc steering committee to hire staff and enter into contracts that expand the number of veteran peers employed by the County and non-profit organizations serving veterans in the County.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Approve the recommendations in the May 4, 2018 report (Report) and direct the Director of the Department of Mental Health (DMH), as the Health Agency lead, to implement the recommendations in the Report;
2. Delegate authority to the Director of DMH, or his designee, to increase the number of ad hoc steering committee members as deemed necessary;
3. Direct the Director of DMH, or his designee, to participate in event opportunities with regional partners, such as the Veterans Affairs Healthcare Systems, to promote mental health awareness, access to holistic services, and suicide prevention for veterans in Los Angeles County (County);
4. Direct the Director of DMH, or his designee, to identify the potential sources of funding within DMH that would allow the allocation of \$20 million towards housing resources: \$15 million that would be allocated to create new affordable and permanent supportive housing units for veterans experiencing homelessness and mental health issues; and \$5 million for housing resources to expedite access to existing landlords and housing stock through the veteran peer network;
5. Direct the Director of DMH, or his designee, to work with the ad hoc steering committee to determine how the \$5 million in identified housing

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funds could leverage and supplement housing resources being deployed through other local, State, and Federal funds and be administered to allow veteran peers streamlined access to tangible resources to effectively assist homeless veterans with mental health issues to locate and secure stable and appropriate housing within the existing housing stock;

6. Direct the Director of DMH, or his designee, to identify the potential sources of funding within DMH that would allow the allocation of up to \$15 million during Fiscal Year 2018-2019 to the Community Development Commission of the County of Los Angeles (Commission) to be administered County-wide through the Commission's bi-annual Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) pursuant to the terms of the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) executed between the parties on November 30, 2017 or any other agreement;
7. Delegate authority to the Director of DMH, or his designee, to amend the existing MOU and execute such amendment or execute any other agreement, subject to approval as to form by County Counsel, for County-wide activities related to the funding and operation of permanent supportive and affordable housing, including, without limitation, administration and allocation of up to \$15 million of available funding identified by DMH, to be targeted for homeless veterans with mental illness, pursuant to the above directive to be administered through the Commission's NOFA process; and
8. Authorize the Auditor Controller to transfer to the Commission up to \$15 million during Fiscal Year 2018-2019 in funds identified by the Director of DMH in accordance with the terms of the amended MOU.

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**WE FURTHER MOVE, ACTING AS THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION OF THE COUNTY OF LOS
ANGELES:**

1. Authorize the Executive Director of the Community Development Commission (Commission) to accept the allocation of up to \$15 million in available funding identified by DMH to the Commission and incorporate into the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 budget; and
2. Direct the Executive Director, or her designee, in consultation with County Counsel, to execute an amendment to the MOU between the Commission and County, through DMH or execute any other agreement, to authorize an expenditure of \$15 million through the Commission's Notice of Funding Availability.

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(DW/KK/EW)