

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN AND  
KATHRYN BARGER

July 31, 2018

**School Threat Assessment and Response Teams**

On February 27, 2018, the Board of Supervisors instructed the Director of Mental Health (DMH), in coordination with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Los Angeles County Office of Education, and Sheriff’s Department, along with input from entities such as the faith-based community, local non-profit organizations, community providers, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, educational personnel and other relevant County departments to provide recommendations to enhance the School Threat Assessment and Response Team (START) program including possible program expansion; and effective outreach and dissemination of information to school personnel, educators, community partners, or any individual who may suspect a youth is at risk for committing an act of campus violence.

Several needs were identified in the DMH report, including the need for improved communications among various County departments, school districts and other organizations, training focused on identifying individuals that may pose a threat, an increased number of START teams, and an increased number of professionals monitoring social media networks. As a result of the collaborative discussions, several

-MORE-

**MOTION**

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

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

HAHN \_\_\_\_\_

BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

KUEHL \_\_\_\_\_

recommendations were outlined in the report to address the needs previously mentioned. From the collaborative discussions, DMH will be providing specialized outreach training to over 300 staff and will continue with ongoing training and educational efforts throughout the school term.

As instances of premeditated school violence continue to occur throughout the nation, it is important for the County to use its resources to prevent future tragedies and be prepared to engage youth starting at the beginning of the school year and continuing throughout the school term.

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

1. Direct the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to work with the Chief Executive Office (CEO) and other County partners, as well as public and private stakeholders, to implement Recommendations 1 through 9 as outlined in the April 10, 2018 report entitled, "Report Response on Safety in Our Schools (Item 14-B, Agenda of February 27, 2018)" and report back to the Board in 60 days with the progress;
2. Direct DMH to hire a consultant to assist in implementing recommendations 1-9 and report back in 60 days with budget and resources needed to support this initiative utilizing DMH's departmental resources; and
3. Direct DMH, in partnership with Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), to reach out to all LA County school districts to provide resources for a school violence prevention awareness campaign, training modules and to make available an introduction to school violence prevention video for school orientations within 30 days.

# # #

JH:jb