

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

October 30, 2018

**Repurposing of Challenger Memorial Youth Center to a Residential Vocational Training Facility**

Many young adults and Transitional Age Youth (TAY), ages 18 to 25, attempting to progress into independent living and adulthood experience barriers associated with shelter and employment. For those who have been involved in foster care and/or the court systems, this transition may be even more challenging.

Los Angeles County is home to 38% of all foster youth throughout the nation, with roughly 4,400 residing in the Antelope Valley. Of those youth, only 58% graduate high school, with 3% going on to complete college. Sadly, half of all foster youth who age-out of the system end up homeless or incarcerated.

County Probation Department's juvenile halls and camps service roughly 15,000 young adults each year. Of the 6,056 currently under supervision, nearly 300 youth within this population reside in the Antelope Valley. Upon initial admission into supervision, the typical reading and math levels stagger around fifth grade. These statistics illustrate a significant gap in opportunities for young adults who subsequently age-out of services but want to remain competitive as they enter the job market.

MOTION

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

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

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To address these inadequacies, the County is prepared to repurpose another detention camp into a pilot Residential Vocational Training (RVT) facility, offering the tools to support and prepare these TAY with life skills necessary for self-sufficiency as they enter the workforce. This pilot program will serve to maximize opportunities for success for a population that has historically fallen through the cracks. Programming will include wrap-around services for the participants, consisting of housing, vocational training and other programs to support conflict management, family reunification, parenting, and mentoring for sustained behavioral change and personal growth.

As the County prepares to close the Challenger Memorial Youth Center (CMYC), this location has been identified as the appropriate facility to house the proposed pilot program. The region surrounding Challenger has community partners, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, and local industries (trades and aerospace) ready and willing to collaborate on this pilot RVT facility for pathways to employment.

County Departments ought to work collaboratively with the existing community working group to prioritize the implementation of the region-specific goals to be carried out in this proposed pilot program. Those community partners include but are not limited to: City of Lancaster, Antelope Valley College, University of the Antelope Valley, LA County Building and Construction Trades Council, the Army National Guard, Playa Vista Job Opportunities and Business Services, Lost Angels, Northrop Grumman, Antelope Valley Youthbuild, and the Anti-Recidivism Coalition.

The proposed repurposing of CMYC builds upon other similar actions by this Board such as the L.A. Model at Campus Kilpatrick as well as the proposed vocational model currently in developmental stages at Camp Gonzales.

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

- 1) Approve, in concept, the repurposing of CMYC into a residential vocational training facility for young adults, ages 18 to 25; and
- 2) Direct the Probation Department and the Chief Executive Officer, in coordination with County Counsel and interested community partners, to report back to the Board in 180 days with a comprehensive plan for repurposing CMYC and implementing a pilot residential vocational training program at the facility, including a summary of the necessary capital improvements, programming, an implementation timeline, a proposed budget, and potential funding sources.

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