

Coordination of Care for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System

The Los Angeles County Probation Department supervises on average, 1,000 young people daily in juvenile halls and camps located throughout the County. With the largest intake centers for probation-involved youth in the United States, the County must facilitate a continuum of care equipped to address each individual’s needs. Our youth require multidisciplinary care and support that should continue upon their reentry into our communities, via a well-coordinated and integrated plan for health and wellbeing.

Many youth within this population have experienced significant trauma, often paired with complex medical conditions. Integration of care and release planning is often challenging in the probation setting, making it extremely difficult to quantify access to care and review health outcomes. For this reason, it is imperative to consider an executive-level Director of Coordinated Care, overseeing Juvenile Health.

Given the unique qualifications and training, we are confident that a psychiatrist would be ideally suited for this role. As a medical doctor with psychiatry specialization, psychiatrists are best suited to understand both physical and mental health needs while providing trauma informed care. A psychiatrist can serve as a highly skilled coordinator across the Health Agency and the department’s respective clinical leadership to ensure an efficient and coordinated approach toward multidisciplinary care.

The Director of Coordinated Care for Juvenile Health, would collaborate primarily with the Chief Deputy Probation Officer, Juvenile Services, to ensure the delivery of a holistic approach to care for our Probation youth at the halls and camps. This approach will be supremely beneficial not only to the youth we serve, but also to the County employees that serve them. Enhanced coordination will lead to operational efficiencies, which will allow probation employees to focus on serving the youth, rather than the complexities of the system. This coordination will result in boosted morale and employee wellness, which will yield improved interactions and connections with the youth. As a County, we must strive to achieve the goals of high quality care for those we serve, and wellness for our employees.

MOTION

SOLIS _____
RIDLEY-THOMAS _____
HAHN _____
BARGER _____
KUEHL _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KATHRYN BARGER AND HILDA SOLIS

November 7, 2018

Page 2

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Health Agency to work with the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Chief Probation Officer, the Director of Personnel, and any other relevant department, to do the following:

1. Create an executive level, clinical classification, (e.g., Chief, Mental Health Psychiatrist), located within the Department of Mental Health, to function as the Director of Coordinated Care, Juvenile Health, funded by existing Health Agency resources with interim hiring authority (one ordinance position) established within 45 days; and
2. Report back to the Board in 60 days on the creation of the Director of Coordinated Care, Juvenile Health, to include hiring status and timeline moving forward.

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