

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND JANICE HAHN DECEMBER 18, 2018

Enhancing the Coordinated Entry System for Homeless Families

In 2012, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), in partnership with Los Angeles County (County) and Los Angeles City, created community-based “Family Solutions Centers” to provide homeless families with coordinated access to housing and services. In 2014, funds from the County Department of Public Social Services helped expand the system, and three-year competitive funding grants were made available to community-based providers in each of the eight Service Planning Areas (SPAs). In 2015, the Board approved additional County General Funds to expand resources for homeless families.

In early 2017, in advance of the passage of Measure H, LAHSA issued a new round of three-year competitive funding grants for the Coordinated Entry System (CES) for Families, which provided community-based awardees with augmented funds. Measure H funds multiple strategies that provide assistance to homeless families with children, including prevention and legal services (to help families avoid entering the

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homeless system), temporary rental assistance and services (Rapid Rehousing), connections to education liaisons, childcare services, and dedicated programs for Transition Age Youth with children in their care. Measure H also funds dedicated crisis housing and bridge housing programs for homeless families, and permanent housing resources that are targeted to homeless families, including domestic violence survivors.

The efforts to assist homeless families are occurring against a sharpening affordable housing crisis. Research conducted by the University of Southern California showed that rents rose 5% between 2016 and 2017. Research conducted by Zillow in 2017 estimated that for every 5% increase in rent in the Los Angeles metropolitan area, an average 2,000 people would fall into homelessness. Since Measure H augmented funds for the family system, the data shows that from July 2017 to September 2018, LAHSA's CES nonprofit agencies have assessed and assisted 7,443 families. As the County prepares to allocate Year 3 of Measure H funds, it is prudent to review activities and strategies related to homeless families, and provide recommendations to improve the overall system.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), in coordination with the Director of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, the Directors of the Los Angeles County (County) Departments of Public Social Services, Health Services, Mental Health, Public Health, Community Development Commission and Children and Family Services, and in consultation with the Executive Directors of the nonprofit agencies operating the

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Coordinated Entry System (CES) for Families, to report back to the Board of Supervisors (Board) in writing in 60 days, including the following information:

- 1) Evaluate the overall functioning of the CES for Families, Countywide and in each Service Planning Area (SPA), and in Skid Row in particular, outline all activities being carried out to assist homeless families and how these strategies relate to each other, and provide policy and program recommendations, including identification of additional resources needed to effectively serve homeless and at-risk families, enhancements to the system, and adjustments to eligibility criteria, as appropriate.
- 2) Develop a consolidated recurring report using pertinent data from the multiple, overlapping programs and strategies that feed into the CES for Families. The recurring report should draw from work being carried out to create a CES Dashboard and provide sufficient detail to allow the Board to monitor the ability of the CES for Families to shelter homeless families and connect them to appropriate “next-step” housing and services in an effective manner.
- 3) Analyze promising practices and recommendations to effectively transition homeless families from shelter to permanent housing, and ensure that formerly homeless families remain stably housed. This analysis should be incorporated, as needed, into the recurring reports and should also include information on:
 - a. Trends related to the number of families seeking assistance from the CES for Families, Countywide and in each SPA, and in Skid Row.

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- b. Shelter, Crisis Housing and Bridge Housing (including motels)
 - i. Contracted capacity.
 - ii. Actual enrollment versus families on the waitlist.
 - iii. Spend down rate of funds.
 - iv. Average time families spend in shelter or motels before they are successfully placed in housing (specify types of housing).
 - v. Estimated additional funding needed to meet demand this year and in following years, and potential sources of funding.
- c. Permanent Housing (Rapid Rehousing and other resources)
 - i. Contracted capacity.
 - ii. Actual enrollment versus families on the waitlist.
 - iii. Spend down rate of funds.
 - iv. Average amount of rental assistance needed to serve each family in housing (specify types of housing).
 - v. Estimated additional funding needed to meet demand this year and in following years, and potential sources of funding.
- d. Case Management (support services)
 - i. Current Case Management ratios by program, Countywide and in each SPA.
 - ii. Recommended Case Management ratios by program, Countywide and in each SPA.

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- iii. Estimated additional funding needed to meet demand this year and in following years, and potential sources of funding.
- 4) Federal, state or local legislation that the County should pursue to create synergy between the various overlapping systems that affect homeless families, and provide better outcomes for homeless and at-risk families.

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