

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

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Expanding Dental Access in the MHLA Program

The My Health LA (MHLA) program was established in 2014 with the goal of providing primary health care services to Los Angeles County residents who are not eligible for publicly-funded health care coverage programs and who remain uninsured after implementation of the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA). The Department of Health Care Services (DHS) developed the MHLA program to fill this gap in health care access in Los Angeles County.

In addition to primary care, DHS provides some payment for the provision of dental services by twenty-four (24) MHLA Community Partners who currently offer dental services to MHLA participants. As MHLA Community Partners expand access to their primary care services under the p[rogram, many are also expanding their dental services, providing increased access to this critically important health service for participants of this program.

MOTION

SOLIS _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

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HAHN _____

However, the current MHLA agreement allows for the addition of new dental clinic sites that are owned or operated by a current MHLA Community partner only if the dental sites are physically connected to the building where primary care services are provided. In some circumstances, however, space, permitting, or other constraints require the dental site to be proximate to, but not necessarily inside of, the primary care clinic. In those cases, there is no contractual authority to include such dental site in the MHLA program, which is limiting MHLA's ability to expand access to dental services for MHLA participants.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the My Health LA Program to redefine the definition of a Clinic Site in the MHLA agreement to include a permanent location at which dental services are provided in accordance with Business and Professions Code Section 1625.1, which (1) is owned or operated by a Contractor that provides Included Services at one of more other Clinic Sites, and (2) is within Contractor's scope of project for purposes of FQHC certification.