

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS SHEILA KUEHL AND  
JANICE HAHN

May 21, 2019

**Comprehensive Homelessness Prevention Assessment and Action Plan**

There are unprecedented resources available to combat homelessness in Los Angeles County. Still, even though more than 16,000 people were permanently housed in 2017, there was only a modest decrease in the number of people experiencing homelessness in 2018. This can be attributed to a high rate of in-flow into homelessness, increasing the numbers even as we house thousands. As of January 2018, the number of first-time homeless individuals and family members identified in the point-in-time count jumped to just under 10,000. With in-flow into homelessness on the rise, we have to assess the efficacy of our County mainstream systems as safety nets in preventing homelessness, and examine whether any part of our County mainstream systems may be exacerbating the factors that lead to homelessness.

The recent work of the University of California, Los Angeles Policy Lab and the University of Chicago Urban Labs (CPL/UL), Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness, Homeless Older Adults Workgroup, Homelessness and Employment Taskforce, Domestic Violence Coalition, Committee on Women

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Ridley-Thomas \_\_\_\_\_

Kuehl \_\_\_\_\_

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Experiencing Homelessness, and the workgroup created to respond to the Transitional Aged Youth Department of Child and Family Services Board motion, all point to a need to fully leverage, evaluate, and potentially redesign County mainstream system policies and resources to more effectively prevent homelessness.

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

1. Direct the CEO-Homeless Initiative to collaborate with the Departments of Public Social Services, Children and Family Services, Health Services, Mental Health, Public Health, and Workforce Development, Aging, and Community Services, Consumer and Business Affairs, Probation Department, Sheriff, the Office of Diversion and Re-entry, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, legal services, research organizations, and other experts to assess how to strengthen homelessness prevention efforts within County Departments, and provide the Board with the following:
  - A. An Interim Report in 90 days that shall include:
    - i. An inventory of existing County department homelessness prevention and diversion resources, including mainstream benefits, housing assistance, and eviction prevention assistance programs, including funding sources and eligibility criteria, as well as categories and number of staff working directly on homelessness prevention and diversion;
    - ii. An assessment of which County data systems currently collect and track “homeless status,” the value that might be gained by having County departments that do not currently track this data element add

this field, and the value of incorporating the definition of homelessness (used by HUD) into any County data systems;

- iii. An evaluation and assessment of recommendations developed by the Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness, and task forces on Employment and Homelessness, Homeless Older Adults, and Women Experiencing Homelessness, and determination of which recommendations should be considered for inclusion in the Action Plan described below; and
- iv. Description of the work being done by the CPL/UL on predicting homelessness and the implications of that work for the Action Plan, including any recommendations on how to direct county department resources to those at highest risk of homelessness,

B. An Action Plan in 180 days that shall include:

- i. An analysis of the inventory of County homelessness prevention resources to determine:
  - a. Whether existing resources are being fully leveraged, by looking at current utilization rates and outcomes of existing resources; this includes numbers of applicants/ people screened, number approved/ denied, and number of sanctions and terminations.
  - b. The feasibility of tracking housing outcomes, like recidivism, for each of these programs.
  - c. The effectiveness and cost of these resources in preventing homelessness.

- ii. A plan to measure the impact and cost-effectiveness of both non-financial and financial diversion on preventing homelessness and to help establish a set of best practices for County departments;
- iii. A recommendation regarding whether any County departments that do not currently track homelessness status should begin tracking these data elements and including this additional data in the Enterprise Linkage Project (ELP);
- iv. Recommended target populations for this homelessness prevention effort;
- v. An approach and timeline to train County department staff on homelessness prevention and diversion;
- vi. A proposed tracking mechanism to determine the quantity and efficacy of problem-solving conversations and referrals to the Centralized Problem-Solving (Diversion) Fund and/or Measure H-funded homelessness prevention providers under Homeless Initiative Strategies A1 and A5;
- vii. An assessment of the extent to which people experiencing homelessness (including first-time homelessness) have recently exited an institution, and/or have patterns of prior contact with County systems;
- viii. Determination of gaps in existing homelessness prevention/diversion resources and a plan to address gaps, including identifying opportunities to leverage various funding streams, including Measure H;

- ix. An implementation plan for any of the recommendations from committees and task forces, identified in the Interim Report for potential inclusion in the Action Plan;
- x. Determination of any needed policy changes to address gaps and implement enhancements;
- xi. Identification of additional opportunities to increase County departments' roles in implementing Homeless Initiative Strategies A1 and A5 (homelessness prevention for families and individuals); and
- xii. An assessment of whether to modify Homeless Initiative A1 and A5 targeting, which aligns with the formal Measure H Strategy A1 and A5 evaluation being led by the Chief Information Office.

2. Authorize the CEO to utilize up to \$200,000 in one-time funding from the Provisional Financing Uses - Homeless and Housing Initiatives account for consultant assistance and/or other costs associated with the development of the interim report and action plan required by this motion.