

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

September 24, 2019

Responding to the Immediate Need to Support Foster Youth Who Identify as LGBTQ+

On September 4, 2019, Andrew M., a 19-year-old young person in foster care tragically died by suicide in Los Angeles County. Andrew M.'s death must be met with urgency to provide youth, including transition age youth in foster care, identified as LGBTQ+ with support and resources to live proud, productive, happy lives.

Over the last several years, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has approved motions to address treatment of youth identified as LGBTQ+. Pursuant to a motion the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved on January 9, 2018, County Departments, in partnership with stakeholders, created a comprehensive plan called *Supporting and Serving Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer or Questioning Youth (LGBTQ+)*. The plan exemplifies the extensive work underway to address issues affecting youth who identify as LGBTQ+.

The death of Andrew M. must propel systemwide changes with more immediacy. In Andrew M.'s memory and that of other youth, continued efforts are necessary to create

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a system of support and to ensure the success of every foster youth who identifies as LGBTQ+.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct County Counsel to oversee the Office of Child Protection's investigation into the death of Andrew M. and report back in 60 days with:

1. An evaluation of the case and identification of any potential systemic issues, including but not limited to sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, and gender expression; and
2. Recommendations for strengthening or modifying relevant services.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Children & Family Services, in collaboration with the Chief Executive Office, Office of Child Protection, Department of Mental Health, and Probation Department, and in consultation with experts from the LGBTQ+ community, to:

1. Create and implement training for prospective caregivers, caregivers, and providers with DCFS and Probation on LGBTQ+ identity development, providing support, and knowledge of related resources in the community;
2. Create and implement, in consultation with labor partners, training for employees with DCFS and Probation on LGBTQ+ identity development, providing support, and knowledge of related resources in the community;
3. Create and implement prevention and intervention services that minimize family rejection when such services are necessary;
4. Provide a status report on implementation of the expanded capacity of transitional housing and how the additional capacity will meet a variety of

needs, including the needs of youth who identify as LGBTQ+, pursuant to the November 20, 2018 Board motion¹; and

5. Report back on implementation of the above directives and identified funding, including consideration of the proposed budget pursuant to the report back to the January 9, 2018 Board motion², within 60 days.

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¹ <http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/130105.pdf>

² <http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/120246.pdf>