

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN
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Los Angeles County’s Coordinated Service for Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is having a significant effect on every facet of daily life worldwide. Throughout Los Angeles County many communities are following social and physical distancing rules to ease the spread of the virus. However, older adults and adults with disabilities who have pre-existing conditions are particularly more vulnerable during this pandemic, not only to the virus, but to having limited access to basic needs such as housing, medical care, transportation and/or food. The pandemic has demonstrated and highlighted some of the largest needs and gaping holes that exist for our older adult and adult with disabilities population. For example, COVID-19 has ravished congregate living sites and skilled nursing facilities; there has been a steady increase of older adults entering homelessness for the first time with no real cohesive, effective, or coordinated regional strategy; there have been long waitlists to have access to the Public Guardian; Adult Protective Services calls had a significant downturn during April and May, while there is a huge and steady demand for elder nutrition. In this timeframe there have been

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heroic efforts by staff from both Area Agencies on Aging, which is important to acknowledge, however, a single visible, cohesive and coordinated effort would have helped immensely. As we prepare for this ongoing pandemic and future disasters, it is critical to have a cohesive system of coordination, one that serves our older adults and adults with disabilities by providing services and supports that are as seamless as possible—the current disjointed approach that relies on individual leadership will not help the region thrive or be prepared for the future.

Los Angeles region's older adult population (60+) is already larger than the older adult population of 41 states and is expected to double between 2010 and 2030, from roughly 1.8 million to nearly 3.6 million. Life expectancy is increasing, and the older population is becoming more diverse than ever before, which means the needs for the County will continue to grow with no clear visible entity that can lead the charge. The Board is at a critical impasse; we are in the middle of an economic downturn, global pandemic, and a movement that is demanding equity and justice, all this will continue to impact older adults and adults with disabilities in ways we cannot fully fathom. It is important that we start to adapt and help create an entity that is nimble enough so that there are clear legislative and Board priorities for adults with disabilities and older adults with transparent leadership. Now is the time to make the critical changes necessary to better manage the current crises and set ourselves up for the future.

There has been a long history of the Board of Supervisors (Board) focusing on this issue. In 2008, the Board instructed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to report back with recommendations for integrating services for Los Angeles County's older adults. As a result, the Seamless Senior Services (S3) Task Force was created and a report was

developed that offered suggestions for an integrated services delivery system. And in 2016, the Board instructed the Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS) and CEO to collaborate with more than 20 County departments and entities to develop the Purposeful Aging Los Angeles (PALA) Initiative.

PALA is a countywide, multiyear effort to unite public and private leadership, resources, ideas, and strategies to improve the lives of older adults and Angelenos of all ages. This resulted in the creation of an Age-Friendly Action Plan for the Los Angeles region, with 34 recommendations to enhance age-friendliness in areas ranging from housing and transportation to emergency preparedness and resilience. The Board approved the Age-Friendly Action Plan on August 7, 2018. In February of 2019, the Board instructed the CEO to report back on the feasibility of creating a standalone County Department dedicated completely to serving the rapidly growing older adult population. PALA has proven to be a historic opportunity to position the Disability and Aging networks to focus on a client centered coordinated service delivery system for the Los Angeles Region. PALA has established a strong foundation with robust interagency participation demonstrating both the need and potential for a Department that organizes a range of community services and supports for older adults and adults with disabilities.

The CEO has considered the previous work done in the aging realm and has embarked on over a year-long process to evaluate the current structure of County departments along with the City of Los Angeles' Department of Aging's work regarding aging and disability services. Through countless letters of support from community, stakeholder engagement, and the most recent report dated on July 27, 2020, "Los Angeles Needs a Strong, Visible, Department of Aging," all indicate that creating this new

Department to serve these growing populations in Los Angeles County is the direction that the Board needs to move in. Given the aforementioned efforts and the Board's shared vision to coordinate and empower our aging and disability communities, it is incumbent upon the Board to provide strategic direction.

WE, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors(Board) direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), or designee, in consultation with Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services Department (WDACS), Department of Mental Health (DMH), Department of Public Health (DPH), Department of Health Services (DHS), Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), the Department of Human Resources, County Counsel, and other relevant County agencies that serve older adults and adults with disabilities to move forward with the required steps to establish a creation of a new County of Los Angeles Department dedicated solely to serving these two populations and to return to the Board in 180 days with a written report on the following:

1. The required steps to establish a new County of Los Angeles Department that serves older adults, adults with disabilities, and community services; implementation shall be coordinated through the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021 budget process with the goal of completing the transition no later than June 30, 2021;
2. A budget and funding structure aligned with a staffing plan to address the needs of this growing population, by staffing the Purposeful Aging Initiative and its eight livability domains. This will also include an executive team, a management team, programmatic, grant writing and administrative staff to support the new department which will include community and senior centers from

WDACS; an evaluation and realignment of the current WDACS structure and the current City of Los Angeles, Department of Aging structure, executive team and staffing and structure. This will be in alignment with the recommendations from the consultant that was hired to study the creation of this new department;

3. Identification of ergonomic office or mobile space plan that addresses this new department in one central location that would accommodate its employees. This space would need to comply with all ADA compliance requirements while addressing the needs of the disability and aging communities. This space will be consulted and cleared with the new Department Director;

4. A comprehensive report back by the end of FY 2020-2021. This report will have all recommendations in the CEOs (final changes) budget phase. The CEO will have appropriate funding, a staffing plan for this new Department with an identified headquarters, mobile workspace, and/or location or co-location plan, the estimated cost, the fiscal impact of the transition, a plan to address this fiscal impact, an implementation timeline, with identified sources of funding; and set aside funding in Provision Financing Uses for the plan;

5. Engage in formal discussions with the City of Los Angeles Mayor's Office, the Los Angeles City Council, the City of Los Angeles' Chief Administrative Office and the California Department of Aging to develop a strategy and to identify the best path forward on ways to improve service delivery including, but not limited to, developing a Memorandum of Understanding, a Joint Powers Authority, or a standalone Department that includes a potential merger of both Area Agencies on Aging PSA 19 and PSA 25 by June 2021 or sooner;

6. Direct the CEO, in conjunction with the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors, WDACS, County Counsel, the Auditor-Controller, and any relevant department to move forward to develop next steps for the appropriate placement of the Human Relations Commission, the Dispute Resolution Program, and the Native American Indian Commission to report back with recommendations and plan of action. The transition timeline for the relocation of the respective commissions and programs shall be no later than July 1, 2021;

WE, FURTHER MOVE THAT THE BOARD, direct the Chief Executive Officer and Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services Department, work with the City of Los Angeles' Department of Aging and report back on a semi-annual basis until the creation of the standalone Department, with the following:

1. Refer to the Senior Seamless Senior (S3), Purposeful Aging Los Angeles (PALA), and the 2020's Los Angeles Needs a Strong, Visible Department of Aging reports to develop and incorporate the recommendations for a comprehensive strategic plan that focuses on an interagency strategy to develop and implement a coordinated system of services aimed at improving the quality of life of older adults and adults with disabilities; it will be important to leverage these existing and previous efforts that can be implemented under the current structure;
2. Building on PALA, create a Leadership Council (Council), in the transition and implementation process, which would be a formal convening and comprehensive representation of executive leaders from the over 20 County agencies and programs that work with the older adult and adults with disabilities, service providers, older adults, Commissioners, and other interest groups who represent

the older adult and adults with disabilities communities;

- a. This Council will be convened on a monthly basis to help coordinate, review, and provide suggestions to improve coordination of the more than 20 County agencies as identified by the aforementioned reports that serve older and adults with disabilities and will focus on:
 - i. Providing guidance on how to breakdown barriers and better coordinate services and supports for older adults and adults with disabilities throughout Los Angeles County;
 - ii. Convening and coordinating efforts across the County;
 - iii. Strengthening planning efforts and actions, including supporting additional data collection, analysis, and data coordination efforts;
 - iv. Identifying legislative priorities;
 - b. Create a formal funder's table that will help coordinate a public-private-partnership, which will solely focus on older and adults with disabilities; and
3. Report back within 180-days on how to revamp and better coordinate the Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA) with the efforts made by the City of Los Angeles and their advisory body. This will include, but is not limited to:
- a. Revisiting and implementing the recommendations made by the Arroyo Associates report to the Board of Supervisors on August 17, 2016, which studied all of Los Angeles County's Commissions and Advisory Boards by reviewing the composition and size of LACCOA to determine if there is State or federal mandates that would prohibit a reduction in size, in addition to

whether such a reduction would assist in the productivity of the Commission.

- i. The LACCOA Commissioners along with their Executive Board will be part of this effort to incorporate their lessons learned; and it is highly recommended that the LACCOA Executive Board and their Executive Director identify a representative Body within LACCOA that can help revamp and repurpose LACCOA in assistance with the Leadership Council, and to have a more coordinated effort within the region and the standalone Department.

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