

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR SHEILA KUEHL

November 2, 2021

Initiating the Hollywood 2.0 Pilot Project

Since its passage in 2004, revenue from The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), also known as the Millionaire’s Tax, has allowed the County to greatly increase the scope and variety of mental health services offered by the County to our residents. In addition to significantly expanding our mental health services, the County has also used MHSA funding to support the growth of our local mental health workforce, to strengthen the IT systems that support our electronic health records for mental health, and to fund the development of new mental health facilities. Under the Mental Health Services Act, counties are also able to apply for funding to explore new and promising ways to deliver mental health practices and services. Los Angeles County has leveraged these “innovation” funds to support a wide variety of groundbreaking initiatives over the years, including care integration strategies that effectively reduced mental health and physical health symptoms, improved client quality of life and identified cost offsets. Innovation funds have also been used to introduce Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation as a first-ever treatment in the public mental health system for clients with depression that has not responded to other first line mental health and medication interventions.

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The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) was recently approved to receive a five-year, \$116 million, MHSAs Innovation grant from the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) specifically to test a new and comprehensive approach to serving people with severe and persistent mental illnesses, including those who are homeless. The County's intention is to establish a five-year pilot project in the Hollywood region which will add significant services and opportunities to the existing continuum. The pilot will establish a variety of recovery-oriented resources that are designed to promote the inclusion of DMH clients into the larger community.

DMH has chosen Hollywood as the location for this pilot because it has a high concentration of clients with unmet mental health and social services needs, a strong cadre of community-based organizations and local business leaders who want to help address these unmet needs, and because we can build upon, refurbish, and/or replace existing resources in the Hollywood area, like the Hollywood Mental Health Center, to enhance our local services. The most recent Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count data from LAHSA shows that there are over 4300 people living in the Hollywood area who are experiencing homelessness, with over 800 of them also experiencing serious mental illness. However, despite this large population of people experiencing homelessness and mental illness in the region, Hollywood does not have the same breadth and amount of local services, programs, and resources as several other areas of the County. The Hollywood 2.0 pilot represents an opportunity for the County to leverage MHSAs Innovation funding, partner with local community leadership, and use existing local assets to build out a rich array of resources. Such resources include a robust infrastructure of facilities and a system of care that offers both services and opportunities to support a highly vulnerable community in new and exciting ways.

The Hollywood 2.0 pilot will utilize the Innovation grant funding to establish a variety of new resources and support the delivery of novel services and opportunities to the target population. The pilot will serve clients experiencing a crisis by developing resources that are intended to keep the clients in the community. Instead of bringing them to our psychiatric emergency rooms or to the jail, we will be able to offer Hollywood 2.0 clients crisis services and resources such as an Urgent Care Center, Peer Respite Center, and a Crisis Residential Program. The establishment of new non-crisis services means that instead of being forced to go downtown to access vital services, Hollywood 2.0 clients will be able to find new well-being services like drop-in centers, a “club house,” a social cooperative, and a variety of peer support services in the Hollywood neighborhood. The Department anticipates that the addition of these resources will significantly reduce the burden on our first responders and the overall cost to the County while helping our clients recover.

The pilot project will also build upon the strong support of local businesses to develop new service modalities designed to further strengthen the clients’ ties to the Hollywood community. Hollywood 2.0 will allow the Department to develop novel programs and services that will enhance the client’s abilities to lead fulfilling lives and feel connected to their surrounding neighborhood. New programs such as Supportive Employment and Supportive Education services will provide clients with opportunities to learn life skills while simultaneously connecting them to agencies and employers in the Hollywood area. By providing the Pilot’s clients with a chance to find purpose in their daily lives and make meaningful connections to others in their community, Hollywood 2.0 embraces the Department’s belief that a client’s ability to manage their life successfully is a key element of recovery.

The Hollywood 2.0 Pilot Project embraces several innovations that are intended to shift our mental health service delivery system away from providing services that are centered on mental illness and instead shift towards a system that is focused on recovery. These innovations include the development of recovery-informed documentation and process-monitoring systems, the establishment of recovery-informed performance and outcome metrics, and a shift towards the provision of services that are focused on a client's well-being instead of a client's mental illness. As the Department develops these innovative programs and metrics, we will be able to take the lessons learned from the Pilot to inform attempts to develop similar programs across the County.

The Department of Mental Health and the Hollywood community have anxiously awaited the initiation of the Hollywood 2.0 Pilot Project. Although the County originally planned on officially starting this project in 2020, we were significantly delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic response. But the County, the Department of Mental Health, the Hollywood community, and most importantly our residents, can wait no longer. By taking action today this Board will allow the Department to start using these grant funds to initiate the Hollywood 2.0 Pilot Project and begin taking our first steps towards the development of a mental health system that focuses on the person instead of the illness.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Director of the Department of Mental Health to:

1. Identify and hire a manager (and/or management team) dedicated to the Hollywood 2.0 Pilot Project;
2. Identify and hire additional staff (and/or contractors) to provide Full Service Partnership and HOME Team services dedicated to the Hollywood 2.0 Pilot;
3. Identify and engage a Hollywood community stakeholder engagement body(ies) that will provide an opportunity for the Hollywood community to offer

meaningful input into the Pilot Project planning process and assist in facilitating its success;

4. Explore opportunities for collaboration across County Departments to bring integrated approaches to the community alongside DMH;
5. Identify and engage an academic or other professional evaluator to assess the outcomes achieved and the success of the Pilot Project;
6. Engage the Hollywood community to identify possible mentorship opportunities, employment opportunities (job placement), and housing opportunities (including interim, permanent, congregate/board and care), and other community-based resources;
7. In coordination with the Chief Executive Office, identify potential properties and facilities that are needed to support the Hollywood 2.0 Pilot Project; and
8. Provide a report back to this Board in 90 days on progress achieved on these items listed above, as well as general updates on the Hollywood 2.0 Pilot Project every 90 days thereafter.