

**AMENDED MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL**

February 15, 2022

**Ensuring the Community School Initiative Has Access to the Most Accurate Data**

On September 15, 2021, the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved a motion that instructed the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to work with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) and the Chief Executive Officer to explore the feasibility of sustaining and expanding the Community Schools Initiatives (CSI) programs of both LACOE and the Los Angeles Unified School District. The Board directed DMH to report back in 90 days on, among other things, identification of communities and school districts with high need for additional mental health services for CSI expansion and the specific metrics used.

DMH faced challenges when choosing the fifteen schools for the LACOE CSI and the six schools that would be given additional funds to hire master’s level clinicians to provide direct intervention. DMH was limited by the tight timelines associated with the Mental Health Student Services Act of 2019 Grant and the lack of current and accurate data for student wellness within school district boundaries. More timely and comprehensive data have since become available through data collection efforts such as the [CEO's Equity Explorer Mapping Tool](#).

The metrics used by DMH and LACOE to select the six schools did not fully reflect the current state of student mental health and wellness in Los Angeles County’s hardest hit communities. For example, the CSI scored Compton Unified School District (Compton USD)

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low on the rate of students experiencing homelessness (2%). However, according to the last homelessness count—the annual [Point in Time](#) results from 2020, homelessness among children under 18 years of age rose by 20% in Service Planning Area 6 (South Los Angeles), where Compton USD is located. Additionally, CSI scoring of these schools used surveys such as [\(Kidsdata.org\)](#) that altogether lacked data on Compton USD.

The combined effect of ~~missing~~unavailable and outdated data may have inadvertently lowered the scores of very high need and underserved schools, such as the schools within Compton USD. Whenever possible, the County of Los Angeles should rely on the most accurate and up-to-date data when identifying and prioritizing areas for additional mental health services as rates of suicides and mental health challenges rise among children. Los Angeles County’s school districts collect and update data on a regular basis.

**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

1. Direct DMH to work with the CEO (Anti-Racism, Diversion and Inclusion Initiative) in consultation with the Superintendents of the Los Angeles County Office of Education and the Los Angeles Unified School District to:
  - a. Update the criteria for further future CSI funding and expansion, so it is based on the most timely and complete data currently available on children’s mental health needs, and report back in 180 days on those data sources that will be used; and
  - b. Identify any federal, State and local funding sources that could be utilized to further expand the CSI to identified high-need schools.
2. Approve Items 1 through 7 in the February 8, 2022, DMH letter to the Board of Supervisors (Board) regarding approval to enter a grant agreement with the State of California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission for the Mental Health Services Act of 2019 grant, with the following modification:
  - a. Direct DMH to return to the Board in writing with any updated CSI needs assessment before DMH rolls over unspent funds or increases or decreases funding or staffing levels to support the CSI initiative.
  - b. This modification should not delay adding the additional clinicians to the 6 schools identified in the Board letter.

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(YV/LS)