

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

August 10, 2010

**Coordination and Integration of Health, Mental Health and Social Services  
for Youth in Probation Camps and Halls**

Multiple experts recommend that local governments should better coordinate and monitor services for youths in the juvenile justice system by developing and implementing a single, comprehensive memorandum of understanding (MOU) across the various county departments providing services. See e.g., *Model Policies for Juvenile Justice and Substance Abuse Treatment* (2008), Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; *Mental Health Issues in California's Juvenile Justice System*, Berkeley Center for Criminal Justice.

Los Angeles County (County) departments have entered or are in the process of entering into over ten separate MOUs regarding various health, mental health and social services provided to youth in the juvenile justice system. (See Attachment 1). For example, existing MOUs include the U.S. Department of Justice MOU between the

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departments of Mental Health, Probation, the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) and Juvenile Court Health Services. The Probation and Mental Health departments have two separate MOUs around Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention funding and Youthful Offender Block Grant funds. The departments of Public Health and Probation have a \$920,000 Youth Substance Abuse Intervention Program MOU regarding outpatient and residential services provided to juvenile probationers.

Some additional MOUs are in the process of being drafted, including one involving \$3.75M for mental health screening, assessment and treatment therapy, and Title IVE funds between the departments of Mental Health and Probation. The departments of Health Services and Probation are drafting an MOU regarding \$35.2M in health services provided by the Department of Health Services at the juvenile halls and camps, including \$7.7M in unfunded medical care. The departments of Probation and Public Health are drafting another MOU for \$800,000 in substance abuse and prevention services.

Some services are being provided that are not covered by a cross-agency MOU but arguably *should* be, such as \$2M from the Probation to Mental Health department for psychotropic medications; \$3.5M in Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) community services and supports; roughly \$950,000 in Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSA); and roughly \$5.6M in County general funds that the Department of Mental Health funds for juvenile justice mental health services.

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Streamlining these multiple MOUs would enable the County of Los Angeles to better coordinate and monitor the quality and scope of these services, determine whether any gaps exist, achieve efficiencies and align already-funded services towards a common strategy to improve care.

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

Direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), in coordination with County Counsel and the Directors (or Interim Directors) of the Probation, Mental Health, Health Services, Public Health, Social Services and Children and Family Services departments, to:

- a. Create an index of all the cross agency MOUs regarding health and social services currently provided to youth within the juvenile justice system that exist, should exist, or are in the process of being drafted;
- b. Create a single, comprehensive MOU that, to the extent permitted by federal and state law and funding restrictions, better coordinates and integrates the various health, mental health and social services provided to youth within the juvenile justice system;
- c. Include within this comprehensive MOU a prioritized list of evidence-based strategies to improve the quality of mental health, health and social services for youth in detention and at risk of detention, and ensure continuity of care as youth transition back to the community;
- d. Include within this comprehensive MOU performance benchmarks by which

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- the County of Los Angeles can measure and report upon its success; and
- e. Provide a written report back within 30 days that includes a description of the currently provided cross-agency services and a timeline for creating a comprehensive MOU.

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## Examples of Probation Department Interagency Funding Agreements

Agreements and Services	Parties Involved	MOU Status
Health, mental health, suicide prevention and other services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U.S. Department of Justice</li> <li>• Department of Mental Health (DMH)</li> <li>• Department of Probation (Probation)</li> <li>• Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)</li> <li>• Juvenile Court Health Services</li> </ul>	Existing
Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Probation</li> <li>• DMH</li> </ul>	Existing
Youthful Offender Block Grant Funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Probation</li> <li>• DMH</li> </ul>	Existing
Youth Substance Abuse Intervention Program for outpatient and residential services provided to juvenile probationers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Public Health (DPH)</li> <li>• Probation</li> </ul>	Existing
Mental health screening, assessment and treatment therapy using Title IV funds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DMH</li> <li>• Probation</li> </ul>	Pending
Health services provided at juvenile halls and camps. Includes \$7.7 million in unfunded medical care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Health Services (DHS)</li> <li>• Probation</li> </ul>	Pending
Substance Abuse and Prevention Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DPH</li> <li>• Probation</li> </ul>	Pending
Psychotropic Medications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DMH</li> <li>• Probation</li> </ul>	Non-Existing
Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) Community Services and Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DMH</li> <li>• Probation</li> </ul>	Non- Existing
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DMH</li> <li>• Probation</li> </ul>	Non-Existing
Juvenile justice mental health services from County general funds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DMH</li> <li>• Probation</li> </ul>	Non-Existing