

MOTION BY MAYOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

JANUARY 13, 2015

Historically, the Departments of Health Services (DHS), Mental Health (DMH), and Public Health (DPH) operated as a single department within our County. In response to a variety of factors and the need to establish distinct identities, the Board separated the three functions into three separate departments. While the decisions to separate the functions into three departments were appropriate at the time, evolving trends in health care delivery, policy, and reimbursement have changed. In the present and expected future health care environment, it would be better for the County to operate a single unified health department that encompasses all aspects of population and personal health.

By integrating DHS, DMH, and DPH, the County will be better positioned to provide high quality, comprehensive health-related services and programs to County residents. Additionally, a single combined health department would be best positioned organizationally to break down the bureaucratic barriers facing the County's patients, identify synergies between programs, streamline operations, optimize finances and align incentives so that all County staff work toward the goal of providing high-quality,

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patient-centered, cost-effective health services across the full continuum of health services. Additionally, consolidating the three departments should result in budgetary savings by sharing capital or administrative expenses, while yielding tangible benefits for patients in terms of service delivery enhancements.

Finally, it makes sense to also consolidate the environmental toxicology bureau functions currently performed by the Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures within the new consolidated health services department.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve in concept the consolidation of DHS, DPH, and DMH into a single integrated department, including the assumption of the environmental toxicology bureau functions currently performed by the Agricultural Commissioner; and
2. Instruct the Chief Executive Officer, County Counsel and the Department of Human Resources, in conjunction with the Department of Health Services, to report back within 60 days with a proposed structure to accomplish the consolidation as well as proposed implementation steps and a time frame for achievement of the consolidation.

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