

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
AND MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

NOVEMBER 17, 2009

**A Leadership Agenda to Support Policies Related to Nutrition, Physical
Activity, Obesity Prevention and Smoking Prevention and Cessation**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) recent announcement of the “Communities Putting Prevention to Work” American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant creates an unprecedented opportunity for Los Angeles County (the “County”) to strengthen its core public health mission. The CDC grant offers an opportunity for the County to leverage up to \$40 million in federal funds over a two-year period to support smoking prevention and cessation, and nutrition and physical activity promotion initiatives.

The County is burdened by some of the most egregious rates of obesity and chronic disease. These grant funds could allow the County to position itself as a national leader in the field of nutrition, physical activity and obesity prevention and strengthen its partnership with local public health departments, schools, cities, leading

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academic institutions and a thriving civic community.

This grant application process will be extremely competitive but will give the Board the opportunity to demonstrate a steady commitment to achieving health and wellness promotion related goals. The Board has already proactively supported the State's recently implemented menu-labeling requirement at chain restaurants and a prohibition on smoking in County parks and golf courses. The County also demonstrated leadership by voting to require that 100% of food and beverages sold in all vending machines on County property, with the exception of custody facilities, comply with the State's Nutritional Guidelines.

In response to a motion by Supervisors Ridley-Thomas and Antonovich, the Department of Public Health (the "Department") recently identified the highest strategic policy priorities for the Board to improve and promote nutrition Countywide. The Department recommended initiatives to strengthen nutrition literacy, improve neighborhood food environments, prevent early onset of childhood obesity, promote breast-feeding, increase access to fresh fruit and vegetables among food stamp recipients, and improve the food environment in public service venues.

In addition, the Department recommended the adoption of three State and Federal actions designed to reduce the salt content of packaged and restaurant foods, increase the affordability of fresh fruit and vegetables, and discourage consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages.

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These priorities should become the backbone of the County's nutrition related health and policy agenda. In addition, these strategies should be considered for inclusion in the ARRA grant application and the County's State and Federal legislative agenda.

In light of the unprecedented availability of Federal dollars, now is the time for the Board to demonstrate its ongoing commitment to bold and innovative policies and programs that promote nutrition, physical activity, and smoking prevention and cessation.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Hereby commit to supporting the following policy initiatives and take the following programmatic action within the next two years:

1. Support the reduced consumption of unhealthy foods and beverages and increase the consumption of healthy foods and beverages by:

- a. Consider including limitations on sugar-sweetened beverages and other items that are not compliant with California food nutrition guidelines as a condition of all County contracts with outside organizations;
- b. Phasing out sugar-sweetened beverage company sponsorships, ~~availability~~, and advertising at County facilities and events by December 20124, including in recreational, cultural and entertainment venues; and
- c. Exploring a partnership with the County's public access channel, and other

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other interested supporters and media outlets, to develop a nutrition-promoting social marketing campaign.

2. Promote access to safe places for physical activity by:

- a. Assisting in the development of joint-use programs with the Los Angeles County Office of Education, local school districts and other appropriate parties. Special consideration should be given to the County's Integrated School-based Health Center sites and opportunities for the development of community gardens and community kitchens;
- b. Facilitating the regional integration of bikeway plans, bike access, and biking infrastructure in partnership with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and other local municipalities; and
- c. Supporting the increased use of public transportation by County employees through the implementation, and promotion of a Transit Access Pass (TAP) Program as part of the County's Commuter Benefit Program, which will partially subsidize and incentivize employees' use of public transportation options.

3. Promote improved early childhood nutrition by:

- a. Promoting breast-feeding and increased access to lactation rooms in County facilities and other amenities that promote breastfeeding;
- b. Directing the three County hospitals that provide obstetrical services to

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complete Baby Friendly Hospital Certification; and

- c. Adopting a policy for optimal nutrition practices at all County operated or sponsored programs serving infants and young children, including licensed child care and pre-school programs.

4. ~~Improve work-site wellness programs by:~~

- ~~a. Encouraging County employees to participate in work-site wellness programs; and~~
- ~~b. Explore the feasibility of providing incentives to participate in work-site wellness programs.~~

5. Promoting Smoking Prevention and Cessation Initiative by:

- a. Continuing support for the County-wide Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Initiative;
- b. Exploring the feasibility of increasing the County's Annual Benefit Enrollment Smoker fee from \$20 to \$100 to encourage smoking cessation amongst County employees; and
- c. Designating the Hall of Administration campus as a 100% smoke free environment.

WE FURTHER MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the Chief Executive Officer to include in Los Angeles County's FY 2009-10 State and Federal legislative agendas an initiative to support and, where appropriate,

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sponsor legislation that promotes:

- a. The reduction of salt content of packaged food products and restaurant foods;
- b. Increased affordability of fresh fruits and vegetables, specifically through financial incentives, subsidies and outreach to food stamp recipients; an
- c. The development of pricing strategies that require vendors to increase prices on unhealthy sugar-sweetened beverages to offset decreased prices in healthy beverages as well as strategies that reduce cost for foods high in protein and lean in fat, including fish and poultry

WE FURTHER MOVE that the Director of Public Health and Chief Executive Officer routinely report back at the Health Services, Mental Health and Public Health Cluster Briefings, including an implementation plan that identifies the lead responsible departments for the aforementioned policy initiatives as well as their progress in institutionalizing the abovementioned policy priorities.

WE FURTHER MOVE that the Board of Supervisors send a five signature letter to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevent in support of Los Angeles County's "Communities Putting Prevention to Work" American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant application.

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