

January 10, 2023

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS LINDSEY P. HORVATH  
AND JANICE HAHN**

**Saving Lives by Making NARCAN Readily Accessible in the County’s Juvenile Halls and  
Camps**

Los Angeles County, like countless towns and jurisdictions across the country, is fighting one of the deadliest ever drug epidemics. The use of opioids has been on the rise for years and the most recent iteration-fentanyl-is wreaking havoc in countless communities and leading to a steadily increasing number of deaths. Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. Fentanyl is so potent it can kill a person within minutes, especially young people who are using it for the first time.

The rising number of fentanyl-related deaths in young people is particularly alarming. While much has been done to educate young people about the dangers of fentanyl, many continue to die from its use. In some instances, teens believe they are taking other prescription drugs, such as Xanax, or even over-the-counter pain relievers, but they end up taking counterfeit pills that are actually fentanyl.

In fact, the CDC recently reported that “median monthly overdose deaths among persons aged 10-19 years (adolescents) increased 109%” between 2019 and 2021. The CDC report also found that deaths involving “illicitly manufactured fentanyls (IMFs) increased 182%” in that same time period and that counterfeits pills were to blame in nearly 25% of those deaths.

MOTION

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

MITCHELL \_\_\_\_\_

HORVATH \_\_\_\_\_

BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

HAHN \_\_\_\_\_

Notably, the CDC also reported that “two-thirds of decedents had one or more potential bystanders present, but most provided no overdose response.”

NARCAN (also known as naloxone) is an overwhelmingly effective bystander overdose response that is used to reverse the effects of fentanyl. NARCAN is especially effective because it is fairly easy to administer so long as it is readily accessible. Because of this, NARCAN education, training, and accessibility have become critical components in overdose prevention efforts. Just a few months ago, in response to several tragic student deaths, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) announced a partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health that will bring NARCAN to all K-12 schools in LAUSD. Just a few weeks later, the Board of Supervisors (Board) unanimously passed a motion to make NARCAN available in County libraries and to explore the feasibility of making County libraries NARCAN distribution sites. In other jurisdictions, such as San Diego, NARCAN availability is mandatory in juvenile detention facilities. These efforts will save lives.

The Board can also save lives by making NARCAN readily available in the County’s Juvenile Halls and Camps where the Probation Department is responsible for the lives of as many as 600 young people at any given time. The County has already taken this step in its adult jail facilities where staff from the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department and the Department of Health Services use NARCAN to save lives on a near-daily basis. In just a one-week period from December 22 to December 28, 2022, NARCAN saved 7 lives in the Los Angeles County jail system. The County’s Juvenile Halls and Camps house a much smaller population but the

potential to save even one life makes NARCAN accessibility a “must” in all Probation detention facilities.

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

1. Direct the Chief Probation Officer, in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer and the Departments of Public Health and Health Services (Juvenile Court Health Services) to report back in writing in 60 days with a detailed plan to make NARCAN readily accessible in the halls and camps that includes, at a minimum, the following:
  - a. An implementation timeline that reflects urgency
  - b. An analysis of how much NARCAN will be maintained at each facility
  - c. A budget that includes identification of the funding sources that will be used to implement the plan
  - d. A description of the education and training that will be provided to all staff and partner agencies including the Department of Mental Health and the Los Angeles County Office of Education.
2. Direct the Chief Probation Officer, in consultation with County Counsel and the Department of Children and Family Services, to report back in writing in 120 days with an analysis of the feasibility of making NARCAN readily accessible in its contracted placements (Short Term Residential Temporary Placements, Emergency Shelters, etc.)