

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN
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Improving Los Angeles County’s Approach to Serving Older Adults

The Los Angeles region’s older adult population (60+) is already larger than the older adult population of 41 states and is expected to double between 2010 and 2030, from roughly 1.8 million to nearly 3.6 million. Life expectancy is increasing, and the older population is becoming more diverse than ever before. As the nation’s most populous county, the time is now to prioritize and focus even more on our older adult population.

In 2008, the Board instructed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to report back with recommendations for integrating services for Los Angeles County’s older adults. As a result, the Seamless Senior Services (S3) Task Force was created and a report was developed that offered suggestions for an integrated services delivery system. And in 2016, the Board instructed the Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS) and CEO to collaborate with more than 20 County departments and entities to develop the Purposeful Aging Los Angeles (PALA) Initiative;

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PALA is a countywide, multiyear effort to unite public and private leadership, resources, ideas, and strategies to improve the lives of older adults and Angelenos of all ages. This resulted in the creation of an Age-Friendly Action Plan for the Los Angeles region, with 34 recommendations to enhance age-friendliness in areas ranging from housing and transportation to emergency preparedness and resilience. The Board approved the Age-Friendly Action Plan on August 7, 2018.

All of this previous work has prepared the region to embrace, engage, and elevate the needs of older adults. We must do all we can do to make Los Angeles County a place that everyone can age gracefully. To do so, the County should look closely at marshalling all the services and resources available to older adults into one agency.

WE, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Chief Executive Officer to report back in nine months on the following:

1. Feasibility of creating a standalone County department dedicated completely to serving the rapidly growing older adult population in the region;
2. Determine what programs and services for older adults currently being performed by County departments that could be consolidated into such an entity as well as all costs associated;
3. Engage the City of Los Angeles (City) Area Agency on Aging in consultation with the City's Chief Administrative Office and Mayor's Office of City Services to determine if services provided by the City could be included within the proposed new County department; and
4. Contract with, in partnership with the Department of Workforce Development,

Aging and Community Services and the City's Department of Aging, one or more consultants to solicit community stakeholder input as well as provide recommendations of best models and practices of older adult services that will help inform the creation of this County department.

5. Provide recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on potential names for the new department.

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