

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KATHRYN BARGER AND  
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June 23, 2020

**Disrupting the Cycle of Chronic Homelessness – DMH Homeless Outreach  
and Mobile Engagement (HOME) Team Pilot**

On September 10, 2019, your Board approved the directives set forth in the "Disrupting the Cycle of Chronic Homelessness in Los Angeles County" Motion. The Motion directed County departments to re-examine the County's immediate ability, through treatment interventions, to disrupt the inhumane cycle of chronic homelessness, incarceration and hospitalization of individuals suffering from serious mental illness.

As part of this effort, the Department of Mental Health (DMH) proposes a pilot project to engage and provide treatment interventions to people experiencing homelessness and living with mental illness through its eight (8) Homeless Outreach and Mobile Engagement (HOME) teams. Strategically placed throughout the County, the HOME teams are comprised of a multidisciplinary treatment team that includes Mental Health Psychiatrists, Mental Health Counselors, Psychiatric Nurses, Psychiatric Social Workers, Substance Abuse Counselors, Medical Case Workers, and Peers. All staff are field-based and provide intensive outreach and engagement as well as access to various resources including treatment and housing.

Currently, the HOME teams engage and, when necessary, conduct reasonable investigations of identified homeless individuals within the community who are gravely disabled. As part of their investigation efforts, the HOME teams conduct voluntary evaluations, provide voluntary crisis intervention services and, when necessary, place individuals who are in imminent danger or considered gravely disabled on a 72-hour hold for involuntary evaluation and treatment.

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In the proposed pilot, individuals' experiencing homelessness who are not in imminent danger but considered gravely disabled and refusing voluntary mental health services, the HOME team may pursue an application for an outpatient conservatorship. In addition, for those who are experiencing homelessness and awaiting a conservatorship hearing while in the hospital, the HOME team may work with the hospital treatment team to determine if on-going hospitalization is necessary. These activities may occur if DMH, through the HOME team, determines that the subject person is gravely disabled and that future examination on an inpatient basis is not necessary to determine that the person is gravely disabled. Concurrent with any conservatorship recommendation, DMH will identify appropriate housing or a mental health treatment bed as well as a dedicated treatment team for the prospective conservatee.

This pilot is aligned with the Comprehensive Crisis Response strategy submitted to Governor Newsom in January 2020, elements of which are being reviewed and examined by the County for local implementation and advocacy, as unanimously approved by the Board on January 21, 2020 and April 14, 2020.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Director of the Department of Mental Health to initiate the HOME Team Pilot, with existing resources, to:

1. Continue outreaching, engaging and providing treatment interventions as well as other resources as indicated to people experiencing homelessness who are mentally ill within the community;
2. Apply for Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (LPS) temporary conservatorship and/or LPS conservatorship outside the hospital for those homeless individuals considered gravely disabled and living in the streets, and to continue their engagement after the individual is placed on a hold;
3. Consult with inpatient treatment teams caring for individuals experiencing homelessness for whom an LPS conservatorship has been filed in the hospital in order to assist that inpatient treatment team in determining whether or not the patient must continue his/her inpatient stay while the conservatorship process is initiated.
4. A preliminary report back on the pilot's progress will be submitted by October 9, 2020, and a final report back will be submitted by July 1, 2021.

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