AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN September 29, 2020

Los Angeles County Alternative Crisis Response

Over the past six months, the Los Angeles County (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) has taken a series of steps towards reimagining the County's crisis response system. On March 4, 2020, the Board unanimously approved the motion "Crisis Response Coordination," which authorized the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to create the Alternative Crisis Response Steering Committee (ACR Steering Committee) composed of various health, fire, law enforcement, legal, and social services agencies to advise DMH on the development, expansion, coordination, and utilization of health and human services crisis response resources throughout the County.

Less than one week later, on March 10, 2020, the Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) Work Group presented their 144 recommendations for creating a "Care First, Jails Last" county-wide system of care, which included redesigning the crisis response system. Specifically, the second of the five key strategies outlined by the ATI Work Group is to "utilize behavioral health responses for individuals experiencing mental health and/or substance use disorders, homelessness, unemployment and other situations caused by

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unmet needs; avoid and minimize law enforcement responses." The Board of Supervisors followed up by voting on the same day to create the ATI Initiative as a permanent entity within the Executive Office to work towards implementing these recommendations.

Then, on June 23, 2020, following the tragic killings of George Floyd and Rayshard Brooks, the Board unanimously approved the "Alternatives to Law Enforcement for Crisis Response" motion authored by Supervisor Hahn that directed DMH to explore ways for County residents to call a consolidated number to request a health and human services crisis response where law enforcement will not be the first responder, in alignment with the ATI Work Group's recommended strategy.

Following these Board motions, the ACR Steering Committee met three times in July to discuss the County's current crisis response system, its gaps and needs, and a vision for its future. They released a preliminary report on August 14, 2020, ("LA County Alternative Crisis Response: Preliminary Report and Recommendations") that identified three core components of the County's crisis response system that need a coordinated redesign - regional crisis call center network ("someone to talk to"), crisis mobile team response ("someone to respond"), and crisis receiving and stabilization facilities ("somewhere to go"). The ACR Steering Committee performed a preliminary gap analysis of these three components and identified a proposed design of how all three should be linked together to coordinate an efficient and effective crisis response system in the County.

The preliminary report identified recommended next steps needed to continue the work of consolidating and coordinating a Los Angeles County Alternative Crisis Response System. This motion directs DMH to move forward with those recommendations.

I, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Mental Health, in coordination with the Chief Executive Office's Alternatives to Incarceration Initiative, to:

1. Identify and implement changes that can begin immediately to improve the current system while addressing current barriers that exist and developing remedies to resolve those issues including but not limited to, creating a direct line to DMH ACCESS for law enforcement;

2. Develop the three, alternative crisis system core components and associated subcommittees referenced in *LA County Alternative Crisis Response* report dated 8/14/20. These subcommittees will seek input from all relevant stakeholders.

3. Map the current, in development, and potential assets within each supervisorial jurisdiction in Los Angeles, prioritizing those to whom response is most impacted by behavioral health crisis and issues relating to social determinants as well as incarceration;

4. Secure a consultant who, in coordination with DMH and its Alternative Crisis Response (ACR) steering committee, will help:

    a. Analyze LA County's existing crisis system and gaps in more detail;

    b. Develop focused recommendations and an implementation plan to improve the existing system and identify "early wins". These "early wins" need to address the current barriers that exist and provide remedies to resolve those issues;

c. Design a new, scalable system structure, including a completed return on investment analysis and approval of the ACR Steering Committee and other impacted County departments, in which the County can allocate the needed resources in a way that will maximize a return on investment.

d. Develop a long-term implementation plan for the new system design and work with County, state and federal leaders to develop a sustainable funding plan for it, before it is implemented;

e. Establish performance metrics by which the system can measure and hold itself accountable for high quality outcomes; and

5. Report back on the progress of all directives in the next 60 days, and quarterly thereafter.

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JH:kc