

Establishing the Aging Department

In 2008, the Board of Supervisors (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. In 2016, the Board instructed the Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS) and the CEO to collaborate with more than 20 County departments and entities to develop the Purposeful Aging Los Angeles (PALA) initiative. This resulted in the creation of an Age-Friendly Action Plan for the Los Angeles region.

On February 5, 2019, the Board approved a motion to incorporate the aforementioned work on how to improve the lives of Los Angeles County’s older adults. The feasibility of creating a standalone County department dedicated to serving the rapidly growing older adult population thus was established. This work progressed and a report back helped frame the necessity of creating a standalone department for not only our aging population, but to also consider what this standalone department can do to better incorporate the adults with disabilities community. On August 4, 2020, the Board

MOTION

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asked to move forward with this plan and directed the CEO to come up with the required next steps to establish a creation of this new department.

On March 8, 2021, the CEO in consultation with WDACS, Departments of Mental Health, Health Services, Public Social Services, Human Resources, County Counsel, and other agencies that serve older adults and adults with disabilities, submitted a report to provide recommendations on how best to move forward with the steps required to establish a new standalone Aging Department (AD) dedicated solely to serving these populations. Specifically, the report recommends a phased approach to separating the AD from the existing WDACS structure. The first phase would begin on October 1, 2021 and entails establishing an aging and adult services and workforce and economic development branch within WDACS with each being led by a director who has programmatic and policy responsibilities for their respective branches. The branches will share an administrative structure until they are formally separated into standalone departments in phase two. Essential to the separation of the branches is the appointment of a temporary Supervising Administrator. This temporary position will ensure proper allocation of administrative resources between the branches and conduct the necessary analyses and final recommendations for the formal separation of the departments in phase two.

It is critical and essential to move quickly to establish the AD to coordinate services and supports and comprehensive policies in order to address the County's aging and disability communities. It is also essential that the CEO evaluates and identifies positions needed to address a solid programmatic structure. Once the AD is established as a County department with the appropriate level of staffing and clear organizational

mandates, the AD will be positioned to work with the City of Los Angeles' Department of Aging, other County departments, and public-private partnerships. Such collaborations will provide the new AD with opportunities to expand and deliver innovative programming, vital services, advocacy, and planning for a future in support of families of the County.

I, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors adopt the recommendations in the Chief Executive Office's (CEO) March 8, 2021, report and direct the CEO to work with County Counsel, the Department of Human Resources, Auditor-Controller, Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults, our labor partners, and relevant County departments, to:

1. Immediately begin the process to phase-in the creation of a new Aging Department (AD) and to prepare necessary ordinance amendments to begin the phased implementation on or before October 1, 2021, as described in the March 8, 2021 CEO report;
2. Appoint a temporary Supervising Administrator on or before July 1, 2021, to begin work on the creation of the AD, including a review of the appropriate administrative and programmatic staffing needs and requirements;
3. Report back to the Board of Supervisors on or before October 1, 2021, with recommendations on strategies for Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services' Community and Senior Service Centers to serve as the hubs for older adults, families, and the community at-large while integrating them within this new AD;
4. Report back in 60 days after the temporary Supervising Administrator is in place with a detailed programmatic and administrative implementation strategy, which includes the plan for collaboration and partnership with the Mayor of Los Angeles, the City of

Los Angeles' Department of Aging, the co-existence and partnership with the two Area Agencies on Aging, and quarterly reporting thereafter to update the Board on progress being made toward the standalone Aging Department; and

5. Provide recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on potential location for the Aging department and potential names of the new Aging Department, taking into consideration the broad reach of the Aging and Disability communities.

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JH: mk