

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HOLLY J. MITCHELL  
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**Creating On-Site Behavioral Health Crisis Response Teams for Los Angeles  
County’s Restorative Care Villages**

Los Angeles County (County) has built four Restorative Care Villages that are set to open on four of its medical campuses later this year. Restorative Care Villages provide wrap-around care for homeless patients after they have been discharged from County hospitals. They also provide residential and support services for patients in need of psychiatric care and substance abuse recovery services in unlocked settings. New facilities are set to open at the MLK Medical Center Campus, LAC+USC Medical Center, Olive View-UCLA Medical Center and Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center. A fifth Restorative Care Village is being considered for the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

Much of the County’s Care First, Jails Last agenda hinges on the County’s ability to successfully demonstrate that seriously mentally ill persons can safely live and thrive in community settings when provided appropriate supportive services. Therefore, it is critical that each Restorative Care Village has a trained and responsible crisis intervention team available on campus twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week to quickly de-escalate any potential violence, suicides or mental health crisis occurring on the restorative care village campuses. Employing these teams also prevents inadvertently and unnecessarily - MORE -

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overburdening the local 9-1-1 systems. Even before the MLK Behavioral Health Center opens, for example, its closest fire station is already among the busiest in the County. All too often, when law enforcement responds, people in crisis end up in jails, in emergency departments, on the street, or they are harmed or killed during the encounter. Those tragic results would be inimical to the County's rehabilitative and criminal justice goals.

Various behavioral crisis models exist. San Francisco, for example, uses a crisis response team that includes a mental health professional, paramedic, and peer support worker. Oakland uses teams that include one medical technician and one mental health professional. In some cases, the needed personnel already working on the campus are deployed. Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, for example, uses a Code Gold Behavioral Team that is available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and includes five behavioral health nurses along with security staff trained in the Crisis Prevention Institute's Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Model.

**WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

1. Direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to work with Directors of the Department of Mental Health (DMH), the Department of Health Services (DHS), including its Emergency Medical Services Agency, and the Department of Public Health (DPH), the Chief of the Fire Department, and the Sheriff, to:
  - a. Ensure trained on-site behavioral health crisis response teams are operational and readily available, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, at each of its Restorative Care Village campuses throughout their operation.
    - i. These crisis response teams should follow a staffing model that the departments determine to reflect best practices to avoid escalation and unnecessary 9-1-1 calls.
    - ii. Departments may utilize existing staff and/or contracted providers for this purpose.

- b. Ensure all Restorative Care Village campus personnel, including security and non-security personnel, are trained on de-escalation techniques and on the process to promptly activate these on-site behavioral crisis response teams, when necessary.
- c. To the extent reasonable, ensure relevant leases, Memoranda of Understanding, staff orientation training and adopted operational procedures at each Restorative Care Village campus reinforces the expectation that every on-campus entity will follow the adopted de-escalation protocols.
- d. Direct the CEO to work with the Directors of DMH, DPH and DHS to identify necessary funding to support these on campus teams, to the extent necessary.
- e. Report back in writing in 60 days with a description of the approach to be deployed at each Restorative Care Village campus, the roles and responsibilities of each department, and a timeline for implementation.

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(YV/JJ)