

Equipping the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department with Narcan

In the Office of Inspector General (OIG) quarterly report, “Reform and Oversight Efforts: Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department—January to March 2023”, it acknowledged a troubling issue that Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department’s (LASD) patrol deputies did not routinely carry nor were they mandated to carry Narcan, a well-known medication that can block the effects of opioids and revive a person experiencing an opioid-related overdose.

At a time in which illicit drug use is, unfortunately, rampant and with drug overdoses ever increasing in Los Angeles County (County), to not readily have this tool readily and adequately accessible appears to be antithetical to the role and responsibility of a “first responder”.

The County Board of Supervisors (Board) have taken tremendous effort and steps to ensure the availability of Narcan, including equipping custody staff and people in custody with this resuscitative tool, to preserve the sanctity of life, in instances of accidental or intentional drug-related overdoses.

MOTION

SOLIS _____

MITCHELL _____

HORVATH _____

BARGER _____

HAHN _____

It is incumbent that the Board make it abundantly clear in its request that the Sheriff take the necessary steps, in collaboration with other County stakeholders, to make certain that Narcan is readily available and accessible to all LASD staff, including mandating the carry of Narcan.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Request the Sheriff to
 - a. Create, modify, or enhance policy, in collaboration with the Office of Inspector General, to ensure clarity, consistency and uniformity as it relates to all LASD patrol deputies to carry Narcan, within 60 days,
 - b. Evaluate training, policy, and authorization and make modifications or create new policy, in collaboration with the Office of Inspector General, and the Departments of Public Health and Health Services, to allow patrol deputies to administer Narcan on a person who is in evident medical distress from the ingestion of drugs, though may not be responsive or not in respiratory distress, and in other distress-related instances, within 90 days;
 - c. Review existing policies for custody staff, in collaboration with the Office of Inspector General, and Departments of Public Health and Health Services, to modify or update in accordance with best practices on the issuance, deployment, and use of Narcan in custodial settings; and
 - d. Provide the Board of Supervisors with a report back, in writing, after

completion of all directives.

#

HLS:el