

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS AND

July 25, 2023

JANICE HAHN

Treatment and Safety: Further Addressing Drug-Related Incidents in the County

Youth Detention Facilities

To further address the continuing concerns related to drug, contraband, and illegal substance incidents in the juvenile facilities, the Los Angeles County (County) Probation Department needs to significantly invest in the safety of its youth. Since the beginning of this year, the County Board of Supervisors (Board) has unanimously supported two motions that not only provided Narcan to probation staff and youth, but also enhanced security in the detention facilities using canine units.

The situation reached its peak with the passing of a youth due to an overdose and, unfortunately, there continues to be drug-related incidents. The Department must take this seriously and utilize all tools available, including infusing the facility with trained and licensed substance addiction treatment counselors, using the effective credible messenger program, who have lived experience and are trained and licensed in treating and working with youth with substance use dependencies.

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Additionally, to further control the inflow of illicit and illegal substances and contraband, there needs to be an investment in physical security using advanced scanners to be stationed at the facilities' entrances for staff and visitors.

Lastly, in response to the March 7, 2023 Board motion, the Office of Inspector General has issued three report backs to address the issue of illicit substances coming into the County juvenile facilities. In its latest report, the OIG also provides recommendations on the use of canine units, a security assessment, investigations of violations of Probation Department policies, increasing searches, and a possible replacement for metal keys.

The Department must exhaust all its available tools to keep incarcerated youth safe and work in steady collaboration with other relevant Departments like the Department of Youth Development, the Department of Public Health's Substance Abuse Prevention and Control and oversight entities, along with community-based service and treatment providers.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Direct the Probation Department, Chief Executive Office, Department of Youth Development, the Department of Public Health's Substance Abuse Prevention and Control, Probation Oversight Commission, the Office of Inspector General, and other relevant departments to present to the Board of Supervisors at the August 8, 2023 Board meeting with an update on addressing the overdose and inflow of illicit substances in the juvenile halls.
 - a. The presentation should also include, but not limited to, updates on plans

to staff the juvenile halls with substance addiction treatment counselors, including credible messengers who are trained and certified substance addiction treatment counselors; security enhancements at the juvenile facilities; investigations of violations; fulfillment of canine search contracts; funding proposals, updates on policy changes in searches; and additional recommendations from the oversight entities on enhancing safety for youth.

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