

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL**

September 26, 2023

**Expansion of Comprehensive Tobacco Control Services in Los Angeles County**

Smoking is the leading preventable cause of disease and disability in the United States (U.S.) resulting in over 480,000 deaths each year, including deaths from secondhand smoke. It is a risk factor for four of the five leading causes of death, which are: (1) cardiovascular disease, (2) stroke, (3) lung cancer, and (4) emphysema/chronic obstructive coronary disease.

In Los Angeles County (County), smoking causes one in every seven deaths, and approximately \$4.3 billion dollars are lost due to smoking-related diseases and deaths each year. Smoking rates in the County continue to decline; results from the 2018 County Health Survey show that smoking prevalence among adults is at 11.2%, compared to 13.1% in 2011. However, disparities exist by Service Planning Area (SPA). For example, SPA 1 (Antelope Valley) had the highest smoking prevalence among all SPAs at 18.6%, followed by SPA 4 (Metro) at 13.3%, SPA 6 (South) at 12.5% and SPA 8 (South Bay) at 12.4%. In contrast, SPA 5 (West) had the lowest smoking prevalence at 7.5%.

Since 1990, the County Department of Public Health’s (DPH) Tobacco Control and Prevention Program has received funding from the State of California’s (State) DPH Tobacco Control Program (TCP) for the provision of tobacco control and prevention services. Currently, the State’s TCP funding supports efforts to decrease exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, counter pro-tobacco influences, and provide media advocacy. The tobacco control plan for the County which was approved by the State’s TCP, allows the County DPH to contract with community-based agencies to provide

MOTION

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

MITCHELL \_\_\_\_\_

HORVATH \_\_\_\_\_

BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

HAHN \_\_\_\_\_

services to reduce tobacco use through policy action, promotion of behavior change, and a campaign targeting community-level social norms in select jurisdictions.

On August 9, 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved seven new contracts effective August 10, 2022, through June 30, 2025, for the provision of comprehensive tobacco control services to support DPH's Tobacco Control and Prevention program efforts in the County. On September 19, 2023, County DPH, under delegated authority, terminated a comprehensive tobacco control services contract for failure to fully comply with program requirements in communities located in the Second and Fourth Districts, specifically Carson, Hawthorne, Bell Gardens, and South Gate.

Given the number of communities that are currently without services due to this contract termination, there is a need to recruit and provide funding to new community-based organizations as soon as possible. Although a new solicitation to fill this gap is an option for DPH, this process often takes a long time; the earliest award date, at present, would likely be in October 2024. Furthermore, the comprehensive tobacco control services funding for this project is only available to the County DPH through June 2025, with potential of future funding through June 30, 2028.

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

1. Delegate authority to the Director of the Department of Public Health to enter into temporary, short-term, sole source service agreements with new or previously approved organizations that were not funded under the comprehensive tobacco control services Request for Proposal, and/or amend current contracts utilizing funds that were previously identified in the Board Letter approved on August 9, 2022. Such agreements and/or amendments shall not extend beyond June 30, 2028, including:
  - a. Comprehensive Tobacco Control Services, Funding Category 1: Reduce Youth Access to Tobacco Products: Tobacco Retail Licensing; at a total cost not to exceed \$220,000 annually across all new agreements and amendments; and

- b. Comprehensive Tobacco Control Services, Funding Category 2: Reduce Exposure to Secondhand Smoke in Multi-Unit Housing; at a total cost not to exceed \$220,000 annually across all new agreements and amendments.
2. Delegate authority to the Director of the Department of Public Health, or designee, to execute future amendments across all new agreements.

###

(JJ)