

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

Implementing Proposition 1 in Los Angeles County

On March 5, 2024, the voters of California approved Proposition 1 that will issue a \$6.38 billion bond to build mental health treatment facilities for those with mental health and substance use challenges. Proposition 1 also changes the way counties can spend their Mental Health Services Act funds, now called the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA). Under the new guidelines, counties will be required to spend 30% of BHSA funds on housing. As California faces co-occurring and overlapping mental health, substance use, and homelessness crises, the goal of Proposition 1 is to get more people into housing and to build more places where people can both be housed and get mental health treatment. Governor Newsom said that Proposition 1 will “prioritize getting people off the streets, out of tents, and into treatment,” and the majority of the voters of California agreed with that priority when they approved Proposition 1.

Now that Proposition 1 has been passed, we need to look towards implementation to make sure that the spirit of the proposition is manifested into practice. The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) will be required to make many changes and it is important that those changes be thoughtfully implemented with the goal of getting more people into housing, especially those with mental health challenges. The State of California has indicated that they plan to release applications for the bond funds as early as this fall, so it is important that DMH be

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prepared to submit their proposal for the types of housing and facilities that are most needed across the LA County continuum of care.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors (Board) direct the Director of the Department of Mental Health, in collaboration with the Director of the Department of Public Health Substance Abuse Prevention, to provide a verbal report at the September 17, 2024 Policy Presentation Board Meeting on the progress of implementing the requirements under Proposition 1. The report should include, but not be limited to, plans to apply to use the bond funds to build more of the most-needed types of treatment facilities across Los Angeles County, plans to use Behavioral Health Services Act funds to provide housing as required by the new guidelines, staffing or budgetary changes required to implement these changes, and any other relevant planning updates.

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JH:kc