

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS AND

May 21, 2024

JANICE HAHN

Proclaiming May 2024 as Trauma Prevention Month

Since 1988, the month of May has been designated as “National Trauma Awareness Month” to highlight the unfortunate encounters we deal with as well as the support and resources available to handle these incidents. Trauma can be any form of violence or detrimental impacts on an individual that go beyond the initial moment in the form of trauma. While there is no set definition, the Los Angeles County (County) Department of Public Health (DPH) describes trauma as a response to an incident that is distressing, disturbing, or life-threatening. Trauma can be long-lasting and carry serious consequences for an individual, families, and in whole communities. Sources also show that communities of color continue to be disproportionately impacted by violence and the resulting trauma. In recognition of the danger that trauma poses, the County has made serious commitments to the addressing and preventing of violence within the county through the DPH’s Trauma Prevention Initiative (TPI) administered by the Office of Violence Prevention (OVP).

MOTION

SOLIS _____

MITCHELL _____

HAHN _____

BARGER _____

HORVATH _____

In 2015, DPH launched the TPI within four communities of South Los Angeles. On July 13, 2021, the County Board, through a motion from Supervisors Solis and Hahn expanded the Trauma Prevention Initiative Communities to include five new communities. Currently, the TPI communities are:

- 1st Supervisorial District – East Los Angeles, Puente Valley, and Pomona
- 2nd Supervisorial District – Westmont West Athens, Willowbrook, Florence, Firestone, and Unincorporated Compton
- 4th Supervisorial District – Hawaiian Gardens and Norwalk
- 5th Supervisorial District – Lancaster and Palmdale

Within each TPI community, three areas of work serve as the model to reduce community violence. The pillars are intervention, utilizing a peer approach to break the cycle of violence in hospitals and community settings; capacity building, which provides technical assistance for grassroots organizations; and a prevention infrastructure, which facilitates community dialogue and decision making while funding community identified strategies. In partnership with local community-based organizations, hospitals, and law enforcement, the TPI program has yielded observable impacts on decreasing violent crimes, an Incident Response protocol, and robust Community Action for Peace spaces to drive community collaboration.

As TPI communities continue to meet and identify strategies to reduce community violence, it is critical to connect the strides made in reducing violence with the prevention of trauma in our most vulnerable communities.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Proclaim May 2024 as Trauma Prevention Month.

2. Recognize and commend the community-based organizations who take on the role of system change agents and community convenors who do work in their respective Trauma Prevention Initiative communities.
3. Encourage residents of the County and County staff to learn more about the impact of trauma, the importance of preventing trauma, and utilizing trauma-informed care when delivering services and resources.

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