

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH

June 4, 2024

Understanding Methamphetamine in LA County

Methamphetamine (meth) is a powerful stimulant with the risk of overdose and/or addiction. Meth was developed in the early 20th century in an effort to improve the medication amphetamine for nasal decongestants and bronchial inhalers. However, it was too strong for most people to use safely. In the United States, meth is a schedule II drug, which means that it's illegal with certain pre-approved exceptions.

Using meth for recreational purposes can cause memory loss, aggression, psychotic behavior, damage to the cardiovascular system, malnutrition, and severe dental problems. Mental health symptoms like paranoia and delusions may take longer to disappear after usage has stopped, and some effects are usually permanent. Meth misuse has also been shown to contribute to increased transmission of infectious diseases, such as hepatitis and HIV/AIDS. [The LA County Medical Examiner-Coroner's 2021 Annual Report](#) shows that meth as a cause of death is on the rise.

Methamphetamine misuse can be prevented and addiction to the drug can be treated with behavioral therapies. We must better understand the impacts of meth, as well as available services and resources in LA County, and in particular in vulnerable populations, such as people experiencing homelessness.

MOTION

SOLIS _____

MITCHELL _____

HAHN _____

BARGER _____

HORVATH _____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Public Health-Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (DPH-SAPC) in collaboration with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the LA County Medical Examiner-Coroner, and in consultation with community-based organizations to report back to the board in writing in 90 days on the meth mortality impact and trends over the last 5 years, services and resources available to prevent and treat meth use and addiction, as well as recommendations on what more could be done, in LA County.

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