AGN. NO.

REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS June 4, 2024

AND LINDSEY P. HORVATH

Care with Pride: Affirming and Expanding the Gender Health Program

June is Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month, celebrated each year to honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan, which was seen as a tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States. Each June, LGBTQ+ residents and allies celebrate Pride, with parades, picnics, parties, workshops, and concerts that attract participants around the country. This month and these events recognize the impact LGBTQ+ individuals have had on history, whether it's locally, nationally, or internationally. Pride Month also recognizes the need to uplift the needed services to offer LGBTQ+ residents with the care, dignity, and respect they deserve in order to safeguard their wellbeing.

This includes gender-affirming care, which encompasses a spectrum of practices, from changes in appearance (haircut, wardrobe change) to extensive mental health counseling, all emphasizing a personalized, multidisciplinary, and considerate approach. In the United States, trans youth undergo months or even years of evaluation

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by a team of doctors before any medical interventions are pursued. Without access to this care, Transgender, Gender nonconforming, and Intersex (TGI) people are more likely to experience mood or anxiety disorders, and can be up to 6 times more likely to attempt suicide. Gender-affirming care can significantly reduce distress and offer a lifeline for transgender youth. Many health organizations, including the American Medical Association, The American Academy of Pediatrics, and the World Health Organization have also highlighted the importance of access to gender-affirming care for the dignity and quality of life of transgender individuals. However, at least 24 states have enacted bans on gender-affirming care for individuals under 18, with many extending bans on gender-affirming care for adults. These unconscionable efforts have left over 36 percent of youth without access to needed treatment.

It is imperative that Los Angeles County continue to serve as a safe space for all LGBTQ+ residents that are seeking access to the gender affirming care and services they need. That is why in June of 2021, the Board passed the first *Care with Pride* motion, instructing the Department of Health Services (DHS) to work with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and community-based organizations to expand competent, affirming healthcare models. In June of 2022, the Board took the critical step of officially creating the Gender Health Program within DHS with the second *Care with Pride* motion, standardizing and strengthening LGBTQ+ services for DHS-empaneled patients, involving DCFS and the Department of Mental Health (DMH) in the care delivery, and ensuring that the program was consistent with national standards of care regarding access to medical/hormonal management, pharmaceutical formulary, mental health coordination, and access to necessary surgical

interventions for transgender, gender nonconforming, and intersex (TGI) people. This program now serves as a valuable linkage point for comprehensive gender-affirming services that include medical care, mental health care, and care coordination. The current population of TGI patients served by DHS has grown to more than 800 individuals who have received more than 2,800 visits related to gender-affirming services. In June of 2023, the County further reaffirmed its commitment to the program with the unanimous passage of the third *Care with Pride* motion, improving coordination between the County departments, developing a communications and outreach strategy, and exploring the development of a single County landing page for LGBTQ+ and TGI residents to readily access as a one-stop location to identify gender affirming care across all County departments.

This Pride Month, it is essential that the County continue to stand strongly with LGBTQ+ residents and ensure that the safety net is responsive to the needs of the community. This includes further coordination between the relevant Departments to create a coordination of care team comprised of medical experts from each of the departments to provide for a seamless transition of patients from one system of care to another, as well as the creation of a policy coordination task force to assess needed changes and advocacy to ensure the County's services are on par with the top standards of gender affirming care offered by other institutions in the County. It further increases accessibility for the program by moving forward with the creation of the LGBTQ+ care landing page hosted by the Chief Executive Office – Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative (CEO ARDI) and regularly updated with content from the health and social services departments, as well as incorporating the Gender Health

Program into the Department of Public Health (DPH) InfoLine.

~~I~~ WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Department of Health Services, the Department of Mental Health, and the Department of Children and Family Services, in collaboration with the Department of Public Health, to continue to regularly convene a care coordination team involving clinical experts from each of the departments that considers active LGBTQ+ patients and clients in need of health services offered by involved departments, and to collaborate on a care model and ensures coordination and seamless transitions of care and services amongst the departments.

~~I~~ WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Department of Health Services, the Department of Mental Health, the Department of Children and Families Services, the Department of Public Health, and the Department of Public Social Services, in partnership with the LGBTQ+ Commission and community stakeholders, to convene in order to consider needed changes to the Departmental and/or County policies that will support the advancement of the delivery of gender-affirming care and services to County-responsible patients with the goal of establishing the DHS' Gender Health Program as one of the preeminent care providers offering gender affirming care. This task force is to report back bi-annually either in writing to the Board of Supervisors or verbally as part of the Health and Mental Health Cluster Agenda Review Meeting.

~~I~~ WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Chief Executive Office, through the Anti-Racism, Diversity and Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative, to host and curate a website with content provided by subject matter experts from the

Department of Health Services, the Department of Mental Health, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Public and Social Services, and other relevant departments, where LGBTQ+ residents can access information and resources on gender-affirming care, social services, and other programs offered by various County departments and direct CEO and Countywide Communications to foster public awareness of the website through their various methods of communication.

~~I~~ WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Department of Public Health to collaborate with the Department of Health Services, the Department of Mental Health, the Department of Children and Families Services, and the Department of Public Social Services to incorporate information regarding the Gender Health Program into the Public Health InfoLine.

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