MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH

Trans, Gender Expansive, and Intersex (TGI) Wellness and Equity Initiative

Trans, Gender Expansive, and Intersex People (TGI) face significant disparities related to health, housing, wealth, employment, safety, and more. The TGI community also faces increased discrimination, violence, and exclusion. These disparities have led the community to have higher rates of homelessness, unemployment, and poverty. In many cases TGI community members may not seek out services to address these disparities, because they are not available, are not sensitive to the community, or out of fear of discrimination.

In Los Angeles County there is a growing TGI population. While the County has made commitments to provide equitable services that meet the needs of the community, further work is required to ensure a more strategic and coordinated effort to support the health and well-being of the TGI community.

At a time when TGI rights are being taken away in many states and communities, it is more important than ever for Los Angeles County to reaffirm its commitment to the community and make additional investments to ensure that TGI community members receive the services that they need in a culturally competent manner. Not only are additional services important, but work must be done to change the landscape of access to services for TGI people, so that community members can receive comprehensive resources and services to improve their quality of life.

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Capacity building and training for the organizations providing services to the TGI community, with a focus on TGI-led organizations, will help to change the landscape, because in many cases these are small organizations that may not have access to the same resources or supports as organizations serving the general public.

The TGI community has spoken at a number of recent Board of Supervisors meetings highlighting these needs, and the critical nature of establishing a pilot TGI Wellness and Equity Initiative at the County to provide resources, programs, and funding allocations for providers that serve the community, similar to efforts at the State level.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Department of Public Health to establish a pilot two-year TGI Wellness and Equity Initiative (Initiative) to enhance services being provided to the TGI community and build the capacity of organizations serving the TGI community, including TGI-led organizations, which are defined as non-profit organizations with 60% of their board or leadership structure consisting of TGI individuals. The Initiative should include:

    a. A $7 million investment over a 24-month period ($3.5 million per year), to be distributed as follows:

        i. $2 million to a third-party administrator of the program to process applications for the grants described below and to also facilitate capacity building and training for the organizations receiving the grants to strengthen their organizational infrastructure;

ii. $4.5 million to be distributed via grants to organizations that provide health, housing, and human services coordination, linkage, and outreach to the TGI community, preferably by TGI-led organizations, defined as organizations with 60% of their board or leadership structure consisting of TGI individuals.   Organizations applying for grants shall specify the program and/or services the funds will be used for, and an estimate of the number of TGI individuals that will be served, as well as, performance metrics; and

iii. $500,000 to the Department of Public Health for a departmental ombudsperson for the Initiative.

2. Direct the Department of Public Health to provide a written report back in 60 days with a description of the program guidelines and details, including the selection process for the third-party administrator.

a. The program guidelines should utilize existing County data, as available, to direct funding to the greatest areas of need in the TGI community.

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