



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
18.		Oppose	Anonymous Worker	<p>I'm submitting this comment in strong opposition to the proposal for Los Angeles County to create a new department to absorb responsibilities currently managed by LAHSA.</p> <p>This proposal is not a real solution—it's a distraction. Creating another county department will only add layers of bureaucracy, divert funding away from frontline services, and further fragment a system that desperately needs coordination, not duplication.</p> <p>In fact, we've already seen what works—and what gets in the way.</p> <p>In 2019, LA County launched a system that gave stakeholders like DMH, CalFresh, and other County agencies the ability to work together and reduce the fragmentation that delays housing people. This was in line with Assembly Bill 210, which became effective in January 2018 and created section 18999.8 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. AB 210 authorized multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs) to share confidential information across agencies to expedite assessment and linkage to housing and services.</p> <p>When COVID hit, those systems came to life. Barriers that previously took years to resolve were bypassed overnight. Agencies collaborated. Data was shared. People were housed quickly because coordination finally became a priority—not a paperwork issue. But once the emergency passed, the roadblocks returned.</p> <p>Instead of creating an entirely new department, we should be expanding and enforcing tools like CHIP and use AB 210 to continue to build cross-department coordination. We don't need to wait on another piece of legislation or a state of emergency to do what's already permitted—and effective.</p> <p>Here are real solutions LA County and LAHSA should focus on:</p> <p>Invest in System Integration and Accountability, Not Fragmentation AB 210 gave us a legal framework to share information and work collaboratively to serve our most vulnerable. The County already started building on this in 2019—yet five years later, the system still isn't fully adopted. Every department and provider should be trained on it and using it consistently. We need more of this, not less—more MDTs, more real-time collaboration, and more enforcement of existing coordination structures. We must stop waiting for legislation to do what's already within our power.</p> <p>Fund Frontline Services, Not Administrative Bloat Our tax dollars need to go where they're needed most: to the people living in encampments, shelters, and temporary housing. That means supporting case</p>



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	<p>managers, housing navigators, behavioral health teams, and rental assistance—not new six-figure salaries for more management roles that don't move the needle.</p> <p>Preserve and Prioritize Affordable Housing The true crisis is in retention and supply. We're losing affordable housing units every month, and without urgent policy changes and preservation efforts, no new department will change that reality. We need to focus our resources on keeping people stably housed, not building a new department from scratch.</p> <p>Fix Policy Bottlenecks and Strengthen Partnerships We need streamlined contracting, consistent performance standards, and shared tools—along with strong, accountable leadership that knows how to foster collaboration, not competition.</p> <p>We don't need a new department. We need to fix what we already started, empower those on the frontlines, and commit to long-term, coordinated solutions. Please reject this proposal and invest in progress, not more paperwork.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Anonymous Worker	<p>I am submitting this comment anonymously, in my personal capacity as a worker in Los Angeles County's homeless services system and a member of SEIU 721.</p> <p>I am writing to express strong opposition to the motion to create a new County department dedicated to homelessness services while shifting responsibilities away from LAHSA. This motion is being crafted by bureaucrats far removed from the front lines, with little understanding of the real-world impact this transition will have on service delivery, staffing, and continuity of care.</p> <p>Frontline workers like myself are already doing this work under intense pressure—navigating complex systems, housing people in an impossible rental market, and responding to a growing crisis with limited resources. The last thing we need is another layer of bureaucracy or a redundant department that will take years to stand up and likely duplicate, delay, or derail the progress we've made.</p> <p>At a time when federal funding cuts are being imposed across programs, we cannot afford to jeopardize the County's compliance with the HEARTH Act or 24 CFR Part 578, which authorize LAHSA as the HUD-designated Continuum of Care (CoC) lead. Redirecting roles and resources without federal alignment risks millions in essential HUD dollars—and the housing stability of thousands of people.</p> <p>Instead of analyzing, restructuring, and creating yet another bureaucratic department, we should be focused on maximizing the funding and infrastructure we already have, improving internal accountability, and directing resources where they're needed most—toward housing, case management, and direct services.</p>



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	<p>Please reject this motion in its current form. Focus instead on reforming and strengthening LAHSA, investing in real solutions, and including frontline voices in decision-making.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration</p>
Renia Ghazarian	<p>Transferring homeless services from LAHSA to LA County may present several challenges such as bureaucratic complexity, loss of specialized focus, potential for reduced funding and accountability, disruption of existing programs, and political and legal hurdles. LA County oversees numerous departments and services. Adding homelessness to its responsibilities could create inefficiencies and slow down decision-making. LAHSA was specifically created to manage homelessness, allowing it to develop expertise and targeted programs. A county-led approach might dilute this focus. LAHSA operates with a joint city-county governance structure that helps secure funding from multiple sources. If LA County alone takes over, funding streams and oversight may become less effective. LAHSA has built partnerships with non-profits, shelters, and outreach teams. A transition could disrupt these relationships, delaying services for those in need. Changing governance structures would require major legal, financial, and operational shifts, which could lead to conflicts between the city and county and delay urgent responses to homelessness. Thank you.</p>
Virginia Gutierrez	<p>My name is Virginia and I've lived in the same neighborhood since 1962. I've seen this community change over the decades, but I've never seen it as bad as it is today.</p> <p>What used to be a peaceful, family-oriented neighborhood has become one big homeless encampment. Every time people are moved out, more just take their place. It's a revolving door. Nothing really changes, and our leaders keep throwing money at the problem without real solutions.</p> <p>And let's be honest—it's not just a homeless crisis. It's obvious we are living in the middle of a drug crisis. People are flipping out, high in the streets, walking in traffic, screaming, sometimes naked—and we're expected to believe all they need is housing? No. They need real help. Not to be locked in a unit and left to deal with it later.</p> <p>We need more county detox beds. We need more drug programs that actually help people wean off and face their issues, not just clean them up and send them back out. My husband struggled with addiction for years. Every time he tried to get clean, it was nearly impossible to get a detox bed through the County. Thank God he's been clean for almost a decade now, but that wasn't because of a County worker—it was by the grace of God.</p> <p>The cost of rent is insane. The cost of living makes retirement feel like a joke. People like me, who've been paying taxes and helping build this community for over 60 years, deserve better.</p>

				<p>We don't need another department, more six-figure government salaries, or more red tape. We need real programs, real housing with support, and a real investment in drug and mental health services. Stop wasting our tax dollars. Fix what's broken. Don't create something new just to say you're doing something.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Virginia Gutierrez L.A. County Resident Since 1962</p>
		Other	Andy Hsiung	Can we appoint a "homeless czar" who reports to the board, and has authority to clean up the mess that's been accumulating over the last few years?
			Dennis Feitosa	
			Sarah Rascon	
			Sarah Rascon	
		Item Total	8	
Grand Total			8	



April 1, 2025

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple Street, Room 383
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Items 18 and 22, proposals for establishment of a county homeless services department; restructuring of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)

Dear Chair Barger and Honorable Members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:

By turning away from the old way of doing things over the last two years, we have united the City and the County by delivering a 10% decline in street homelessness in L.A. City – the first decrease in homelessness in many years. While homelessness rises across the country, we are driving it down and have dispelled the myth that people want to live on the streets – saving lives and restoring neighborhoods. We locked arms, each declaring a state of emergency, and have moved with unprecedented urgency. We are making forward movement. We must keep building on this and confronting our challenges, together.

Today as the Board of Supervisors considers going backwards into a silo by dismantling the Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority (LAHSA), we ask you to keep in mind how we got here. In the 1980s and 90s there were a series of lawsuits on behalf of unhoused Angelenos alleging that they were restricted from accessing County services. LAHSA was born out of a fragmented City and County system that was siloed and broken. Although it is clear that the joint powers authority has not lived up to its promise, it is also clear that an isolated approach has not worked – and produced even more dire results. Time and

time again, when confronting our homelessness crisis, instead of focusing on people, officials focus on infrastructure. In this move replacing one bureaucracy with another, history repeats itself.

Dismantling LAHSA will deprive the City of Los Angeles of essential resources, including recent voter-approved Measure A funding, and would severely stunt the City's ability to oversee existing programs that provide holistic solutions to individuals with complex needs. Real people rely on these resources every day and this move puts that life-saving care in jeopardy. This action would create a monumental disruption in the progress we are making and runs the serious risk of worsening our homelessness crisis, not ending it. It will signal a surrender that street homelessness is a permanent fixture in Los Angeles – and as leaders here in the City, we disagree with that assumption.

Instead, we believe that we must work together on this issue. Homelessness is not only a housing issue; it is tied to physical, mental, and behavioral health. The current City-County partnership through the Joint Powers Authority of LAHSA is meant to reflect the fact that our jurisdictions have vast overlap, with the significant majority of people experiencing homelessness in the County of Los Angeles residing within the borders of the City of Los Angeles. The only way we can solve homelessness is through an integrated approach - one that aligns homeless services with housing and includes health and social services. This integrated approach inherently requires an enhanced partnership between the City and County.

The Executive Committee for Regional Homelessness Alignment is a crucial tool for driving collaboration, setting shared goals, and ensuring coordinated decision-making. This committee should play a central role in developing a unified strategic plan with measurable goals, improving resource efficiency, and enhancing data transparency across agencies. Clear definitions of LAHSA's decision-making authority will ensure alignment between the City and County, prevent duplication and enhance accountability. As the City continues to navigate how to respond to the County's potential dismantling of LAHSA, collaboration with the City, and any other entity that may be created, will be necessary to ensure transparent resource allocation, performance evaluations, and public trust in the system is maintained.

The City of Los Angeles represents 60% of Los Angeles County's homeless population, and we have invested in tens of thousands of shelters and permanent housing units for the homeless – your decision will have an impact that is impossible to overstate. The City must be a full and equal partner in any future decisions that will impact our ability to get people off the streets.

As LAHSA is a joint powers authority, your vote today is not just about transitioning to a new County Department of Homelessness, it is also about the County unilaterally changing how the City and County work together to address homelessness. As you consider this decision, we urge you to keep working with the City to reimagine a homelessness system that truly puts unhoused people first with an eye towards ending the homelessness crisis. We must go forward, not backwards – and we will press on with meaningful and necessary reforms that enhance accountability, improve outcomes, and ultimately end homelessness across our region.

We know that our shared goal at the end of the day is to help people off the street for good. We look forward to continuing that work together.

Sincerely,



KAREN BASS
Mayor



NITHYA RAMAN
Chair, Housing and Homelessness Committee