

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

MAY 6, 2025

**STREAMLINING LOS ANGELES COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE  
USE DISORDER BED REPORTING**

Since 2022, there have been a series of board motions for mental health (MH) and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment beds to address the need across the County. The P3/P4 motion titled: “Moving Forward: Expansion of Secure Mental Health Beds and Development of Secure Mental Health Facilities to Depopulate the Los Angeles County Jails (Item No. 24, Agenda of April 4,2023)” started with Board of Supervisor’s (Board) [September 2022 motion](#) to address the complex mental health needs of P3/P4 classified individuals in an effort to promote the depopulation of Men’s Central Jail and promote a Care First Jails Last approach. The Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Department of Mental Health (DMH) responded to the board motion in [March 2023](#). DMH and DHS put forth a plan to serve P3/P4 classified individuals, in four population categories, through diversion and community-based restoration and community-based non-carceral treatment facilities with a plan to expand acute and subacute mental health beds in the community by 500 beds over five years.

On [April 4, 2023](#), the Board directed DMH and DHS to move forward with the Jail Depopulation Program (Program) to develop an initial 500 secure mental health care beds to care for P3/P4 individuals currently in the jails, including but not limited to, developing secure beds for Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) conserved/conservable, Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial (FIST), non-LPS conserved/conservable, and the non-traditionally divertible populations, with the goal of using these beds for individuals incarcerated with a P3/P4 mental illness classification.

Simultaneously, to support the incompetent to stand trial (IST) population, on September 27, 2022, the Board passed a motion entitled, “[Swiftly Creating More Beds for Persons Mentally Incompetent to Stand Trial with Newly Available State Funding](#),” directing DHS and DMH to create a plan to immediately expend \$50,000,000 Misdemeanor Incompetent to Stand Trial (MIST) Funding in a manner that maximizes opportunities to safely house, treat, and serve MIST individuals.

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On November 18, 2022, in response to the previously mentioned motion, DHS and DMH released their jointly developed report and plan entitled, "[Swiftly Creating More Beds for Persons Mentally Incompetent to Stand Trial with Newly Available State Funding](#)," to both expand the number of beds for persons who are deemed MIST and to supplement existing treatment and housing services.

Subsequent questions arose as to whether the November 18, 2022, proposed MIST Plan fully met the technical requirements of Assembly Bill (AB) 178, and how it impacted the remaining \$50,000,000 non-MIST portion of the funds (Non-MIST Funding). Finally, in February 7, 2023, the Board approved a revised substitute motion, "[Acting to Expand Services for Misdemeanor Incompetent to Stand Trial Population](#)," directing DMH and DHS to take steps to be ready to implement relief for the MIST population through a number of directives. These directives included, but were not limited to, DMH accepting Assembly Bill (AB) 178 funds; and County Counsel in coordination with the Chief Executive Office, DMH, DHS, and other relevant parties listed therein to review AB 178, seek State guidance, and ensure plans developed in response to the September 27, 2022, motion complies with the provisions of AB 178.

Also in 2022, the State launched the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure (BHCIP) grants, making billions of dollars of funding available for MH and SUD treatment capacity to counties and CBOs across the State. To prioritize the County BHCIP strategy and target investments, DMH used its Round 2 Planning Grant dollars to contract with HMA to create a Mental Health Resources Planning tool, highlighting the highest needs for investments within LA County for mental health beds.

To further this work, in January 2023, the Board directed DMH to continue the work with the consultant to evaluate the current and forecasted bed capacity needs of the County and build a roadmap on how to fund and sustain these beds. On February 15, 2024, in fulfillment of the Board directives, DMH delivered a comprehensive roadmap in concert with Health Management Associates, and the Board further directed DMH to implement all the recommendations within the report. This new report back, "*Implementing the Mental Health Resources Report*," now supersedes the previous reporting cycle and directives.

Alongside the P3/P4, IST bed, and BHCIP efforts, the Board also established the regular Set Matter reports on May 2023 to discuss the broad look at MH and SUD treatment beds. Initially, this Set Matter was restricted to the Health Departments. In February 2024, the Board instructed DMH to incorporate CEO Homeless Initiative and JCOD as a part of the continuum and include outcomes associated with the levels of care. In December 2024, the Chair redirected DMH and DPH to restrict the reporting to the two departments, focusing on MH and SUD treatment beds plus an overview of Bond BHCIP Round 1.

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To ensure a comprehensive and full view of the treatment beds within LA County, it is necessary to consolidate and clarify the reporting from all reports listed above and those that are not listed but related.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Officer to work with the Departments of Mental Health, Public Health, Health Services and any other impacted departments to:

1. Consolidate the mental health and substance use disorder treatment bed reports into one new streamlined and coordinated MH and SUD Treatment Bed Report;
2. Submit to the Board bi-annually in writing, and
3. Discontinue the Bed Set Matter quarterly reports and incorporate updates on the Continuum of Care for mental health and substance use disorders beds within the MH and SUD Treatment Bed Report.

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KB:tcs