

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS

June 17, 2025

AND LINSEY P. HORVATH

Care With Pride: Strengthening the Safety Net for LGBTQ+ Residents and System-Involved Youth

Every year, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) Pride Month is celebrated during the month of June in honor of the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan which shaped the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States. Pride Month is a time of celebration for LGBTQ+ individuals and allies, and to elevate the positive contributions LGBTQ+ individuals have made in our communities. Pride Month is also an opportunity for the County to reflect on and amplify existing needs among the LGBTQ+ community and ways in which the County can further enhance their health, and well-being. Unfortunately, Pride Month this year arrives in the midst of renewed attacks by the federal administration on LGBTQ+ individuals, particularly transgender and gender nonconforming individuals, that echo the same forces of marginalization that sparked the Stonewall Uprising over five decades ago. This moment calls on Los Angeles County to act with clarity and conviction in defending the rights and humanity of LGBTQ+ residents.

Los Angeles County is committed to continuing to reaffirm the importance of enhancing the safety and care of LGBTQ+ communities as it has been doing for several

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years. In June 2021, the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed the first *Care with*

Pride motion, which directed the Department of Health Services (DHS) and the

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to enhance healthcare models,

assess current protocols regarding gender-affirming care, and solicit feedback from

community to improve care coordination. In June of 2022, the Board of Supervisors

unanimously passed the second *Care with Pride* motion, expanding on these efforts to

create a Gender Health Program (GHP) within DHS, to standardize and strengthen

LGBTQ+ services for DHS-empaneled patients, and to work with DCFS and the

Department of Mental Health (DMH) to ensure mental health and child welfare partners

were contributors to this program. To build on prior efforts, in June 2023, the Board of

Supervisors unanimously passed the third *Care with Pride* motion, to improve

coordination across departments, and explore the feasibility of developing a landing

page for LGBTQ+ and transgender, gender nonconforming, and intersex (TGI) residents

which could serve as one-stop site with existing resources from across County

departments.

In June 2024, the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed the fourth *Care with*

Pride motion establishing a task force comprised of DHS, DMH, DCFS, and the

Department of Public Health (DPH), to enhance coordination and transitions of care and

services amongst departments, and to work with the Department of Public Social

Services (DPSS) to enhance the delivery of gender-affirming care and services to

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County-responsible patients. These efforts are currently coordinated by the County's Gender Health Coalition (GHC) which brings together stakeholders across organizations and Departments to improve gender-affirming services. The GHP and GHC now serve as a valuable linkage point for comprehensive gender-affirming services that include medical care, mental health care, and care coordination. The motion also directed the Chief Executive Office (CEO), through the Anti-Racism, Diversity and Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative to host a website on information and resources for LGBTQ+ residents offered by various County Departments and directed DPH to incorporate information regarding the Gender Health Program into the Public Health InfoLine. The website is now live and providing important, culturally-sensitive materials to LGBTQ+ residents seeking care and services.

In the face of ongoing attacks elsewhere, the County must remain steadfast in its commitment to supporting LGBTQ+ communities by ensuring the continued delivery of affirming services and protections that promote their dignity, safety, and well-being. While the County has taken important steps to strengthen the safety net for LGBTQ+ residents and patients, more must be done to fully address the evolving needs of LGBTQ+ residents, and patients across all County systems, including the child welfare and juvenile justice-related systems. National studies show that LGBTQ+ and gender non-conforming youth are overrepresented in juvenile justice detention and correctional facilities and the percentage of incarcerated LGBTQ+ youth is double that of LGBTQ+

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youth in the general population. Additionally, a majority of juvenile justice professionals do not understand the medical needs of transgender youth. Studies have also shown that LGBTQ+ youth in correctional facilities report the highest rates of suicidal ideation, suicide attempts, and self-harm. These findings make it clear that now is the time for the County to do more to address the health, mental health, and social service needs of LGBTQ+ justice involved youth.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Health Services, the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Mental Health, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Social Services, and the Chief Executive Office through Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative designate leads to participate in the Gender Health Coalition and relevant care coordination task forces, and report back in writing quarterly with department-specific updates on their efforts to support the health and well-being of LGBTQ+ residents in alignment with this motion and prior Care with Pride motions.

WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Mental Health to report back in writing in 30 days with a plan to further enhance and support the mental health of LGBTQ+ and gender nonconforming residents, particularly given the federal administration's attacks to the health and well-being LGBTQ+ and gender nonconforming individuals.

WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Probation

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Officer to designate staff to participate in the Gender Health Coalition to increase focus on the LGBTQ+ individuals who are inside, under formal or informal field Probation, and exiting Probation facilities.

WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Probation Officer, the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Health Services, and the Department of Mental Health, in partnership with the Department of Youth Development, Department of Public Health, Chief Executive Office through Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative, Homeless Initiative, the LGBTQ+ Commission, and the Office of Child Protection to report back in writing in 90 days and quarterly thereafter with the following:

1. Plans and timelines for specific Care Coordination activities for system-involved LGBTQ+ youth, including transitional aged youth (TAY), to ensure continuity of care and services via the Gender Health Coalition.
2. A written roadmap detailing how system-involved LGBTQ+ youth, including TAY and youth inside, under formal or informal field Probation, and exiting Probation facilities or DCFS services, will be connected to culturally responsive community-based services, including housing, mental health, substance use, medical, mentorship, educational, and employment support. The report should include a timeline for implementation of these activities and the names of associated community programs.

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3. Written recommendations and a list of relevant partners for strengthening coordination to create a holistic and affirming system of care for justice-involved LGBTQ+ youth with overlapping vulnerabilities, such as youth experiencing homelessness, human trafficking, family violence, or immigration-related challenges.
4. A plan, timeline, and sustainability plan for the creation of and implementation of Probation staff training on LGBTQ+ cultural competency, trauma-informed care, and gender-affirming practices.
5. Provide a framework, timeline, and implementation plan for Probation to collect data on the experiences and outcomes of justice-involved LGBTQ+ youth under the care and supervision of Probation, with the goal of identifying service gaps and ensuring fair, inclusive, and responsive treatment and outcomes.
6. Direct Probation to report back to the Probation Oversight Commission on the implementation of directives three, four, and five at a regularly scheduled Probation Oversight Commission meeting in 180 days, and thereafter every 90 days.

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