

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

August 5, 2025

**Inspired by Immigrant Communities, for Everyone: Strengthening the Essential Role of *Promotoras/es* and Community Health Workers in Linking Vulnerable Communities to Critical Health and Social Services**

*Promotoras/es* and community health workers (CHWs) play a crucial role in Los Angeles County through their ability to connect residents to health, human, and social services. *Promotoras/es* and CHWs are trusted messengers with lived experience who effectively promote County resources in ways that are culturally and linguistically informed. They are often the first point of connection to critical information and services due to their unique ability to remove barriers such as mistrust, lack of knowledge, and cultural alignment, that can otherwise lead historically underserved communities to forgo care altogether. It is this ability to connect communities with County departments, resources, and critical care, that make *promotoras/es* and CHWs an integral component of the County’s health system.

The *promotoras/es* model has its origins in Latin America and has been supported by Latino communities in the County. Today, the role of *promotoras/es* and CHWs expands to other vulnerable communities who are more receptive to receiving services and accessing resources when information is received from a trusted messenger with a similar lived experience. This includes other communities of color,

**MOTION**

Solis	_____
Mitchell	_____
Horvath	_____
Hahn	_____
Barger	_____

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justice-involved individuals, unhoused individuals, or individuals suffering from substance use disorders, among others. It is through their shared lived experience, culture, and language that critical bridges have been created to County resources.

In the aftermath of the Trump Administration's intensified immigration enforcement that began on June 6, 2025, the already critical role of *promotoras/es* and CHWs throughout the County has gained further relevance. Ongoing attacks on immigrant communities have heightened fear and discouraged individuals from participating in public life, even to carry basic activities like going to work, or accessing food, healthcare, and other essential services. *Promotoras/es* and CHWs continue to play a vital role in delivering information and resources directly to community members. As trusted individuals with the ability to bridge language and cultural barriers, they have helped many overcome the fear to seek the support they need.

Many *promotoras/es* and CHWs are themselves from immigrant communities and continue to step out to support others even as they face the same fears and challenges. Given increased immigration enforcement and heightened fear in recent months, there is a growing need to provide *Promotoras/es* and CHWs additional mental health supports, as well as tools and resources necessary to continue supporting their communities.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors suspend Section 22.1 of the Rules of the Board for the limited purpose of considering this motion.

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I, **FURTHER, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Departments of Mental Health, Public Health, Health Services, in partnership with the Chief Executive Office, Center for Strategic Partnerships, the *Community Health Workers, Promotores, and Representatives (CHW/P/Rs) Consortium*, and the Office of Immigrant Affairs to report back in 30 days in writing with the following:

1. Needs and opportunities to further support *promotoras/es* and CHWs amid intensified immigration enforcement, including but not limited to enhanced mental health services and immigration legal assistance.
2. Current actions being taken to strengthen the capacity and readiness of *promotoras/es*, CHWs, and Supervising CHWs to respond to increased immigration enforcement, including efforts to provide trauma-related trainings and coordination of services across departments.
3. Recommendations on additional training for *promotoras/es* and CHWs so they are better prepared to promote expanded access to physical and behavioral health care, social services, immigration legal assistance referrals, “Know Your Rights” resources and training, and other critical resources. This is to be done in a manner that considers the language, cultural, and immigration-status needs of immigrants and their families.

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