AGN. NO._____

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN AND HOLLY J. MITCHELL

September 29, 2026

Strengthening Access and System Performance for Families Experiencing Homelessness in Los Angeles County

Los Angeles County (County) has made significant investments to reduce homelessness and improve access to housing and supportive services. As the County continues implementing its new Department of Homeless Services and Housing (HSH), it is critical that the homeless response system remains responsive to the realities families experience and that policies evolve to remove unnecessary barriers to accessing services and permanent housing.

Families experiencing homelessness do not always fit neatly within traditional definitions of homelessness. Many families rely on temporary arrangements with friends or relatives because they have nowhere else to go. While commonly referred to as "couch surfing," these living situations are often unstable, temporary, and can end with little notice, placing families at continued risk of homelessness. In some instances, children temporarily stay with relatives while parents remain unsheltered or sleep in vehicles, creating additional barriers to accessing assistance despite the family's ongoing housing crisis. Interventions are needed to support both doubled-up families and unsheltered families recognizing the unique needs of each population.

The County should prioritize families at the greatest risk and ensure that limited

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housing resources are targeted and utilized as effectively as possible. Current housing-matching practices may unnecessarily limit opportunities for small families to access one-bedroom units when such placements would otherwise comply with occupancy standards and program requirements. Increasing flexibility in housing placements could reduce the time families spend waiting for permanent housing and improve overall system efficiency.

Likewise, effective coordination across the homeless response system depends on timely and accurate information. Expanding participation in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to qualified providers that are not currently County-funded could strengthen care coordination, improve data quality, reduce duplication of services, and provide a more comprehensive understanding of the needs of people experiencing homelessness.

Finally, as the County continues investing in interim housing, it is important to ensure those investments are aligned with permanent housing resources. When households are unable to quickly transition from interim housing because permanent housing subsidies or resources are unavailable, the entire system becomes less efficient, limiting the County's ability to serve additional households in need. Identifying opportunities to better align these resources can improve system throughput and maximize the County's investment in homelessness services.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Homeless Services and Housing (HSH), in consultation with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), the Department of Public Social Services, the Chief Executive Office, County Counsel, the Los Angeles County Development Authority, Los

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Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency (LACAHSA), and other relevant County departments and stakeholders, to include in the next report back in response to the Board's 2025 motion Enhancing Support for Pregnant People and New Parents who are Experiencing Homelessness the following information:

1. A review of current referral pathways and eligibility policies regarding families seeking housing and services and identify policy and administrative changes that, where permitted by applicable funding requirements, would ensure programs are available, as funding allows, to support doubled-up, unsheltered, and multi-generational families recognizing the different needs of each population. It should also include recommendations for families whose children are temporarily staying with relatives while parents remain unsheltered, sleeping in vehicles, or otherwise experiencing homelessness, including how these families can access appropriate housing services and other system supports.
2. Strategies to facilitate access of families to available permanent housing resources when consistent with applicable occupancy standards, requirements for both subsidies and units, and property owner policies, in order to maximize housing opportunities and reduce the length of time families remain in interim housing.

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