AGN. NO._____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS July 1, 2025

Enhancing Support for Pregnant People and New Parents who are Experiencing Homelessness

On November 26, 2024, the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved a motion titled Supporting Pregnant People and New Parents who are Experiencing Homelessness, directing Los Angeles County's Department of Health Services (DHS) Housing for Health (HFH), in collaboration with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), the Chief Executive Office Homeless Initiative (HI), the Department of Mental Health (DMH), the Department of Public Health (DPH), the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), the Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA), and the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) to develop a plan to better support pregnant people and new parents who are experiencing homeless, with a focus on Skid Row. In response to the motion, HFH convened a working group with LAHSA, HI, DMH, DPH, DPSS, OIA, and DCFS, to develop a plan in alignment with the motion.

On February 25, 2025, HFH provided a report back to the Board with a plan outlining existing resources, opportunities to enhance or expand existing resources, and additional resources needed. The report back highlighted the high rates of pregnancy among people experiencing homelessness who were assigned female at birth and were between the ages of 18 and 44. The plan also described how pregnancy and new

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parenthood creates unique vulnerabilities for people experiencing homelessness due to challenges in accessing prenatal care, behavioral healthcare, and maintaining safety.

Since the plan was developed, and in alignment with the November 26, 2024 motion, significant work has occurred to increase training for outreach teams, interim housing providers, and field medicine teams to support people experiencing homelessness who are pregnant or new parents. The County has a wide array of programs to support pregnant people and new parents, but gaps remain in both tailored services for people who are experiencing homelessness and who are pregnant and/or new parents, and linkage between programs available through the homeless response system and County programs targeting pregnant people or new parents. Pregnant people and new parents experiencing unsheltered homelessness may also struggle to secure safe living accommodations because of resource shortages in the Family Coordinated Entry System.

In addition to recommendations that would address these gaps in services and linkage by enhancing processes, trainings, and partnerships, the plan highlighted the importance of DPH's Project H.O.P.E. (Help for homeless pregnant and parenting families, Opportunities for a better tomorrow, Peace of mind, Early intervention, and enrichment). This program is a pilot home visitation program that supports pregnant and parenting families experiencing homelessness in Service Planning Areas 2 and 6. Families are paired with a community health worker and public health nurse to provide pregnancy and parenting support, school readiness assistance, connections to

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resources to help families achieve their goals, and mental health support.

The plan also outlined the importance of DPH's Abundant Birth Project guaranteed income pilot, which provides cash with no strings attached as a strategy to prevent stress during pregnancy for those most at risk of adverse birth outcomes. Research shows that this support is likely to prevent babies from being born too early or too small and can also protect the health of the birthing parent.

While the County has created a variety of programs that serve pregnant people and new parents experiencing homelessness, resource shortages and gaps in program delivery may exacerbate the unique challenges that pregnant and new parents experiencing homelessness face. It is imperative, even when facing budgetary constraints, to do everything in the County's power to support these vulnerable families, individuals, and babies by providing critical interventions to support their health and wellbeing and to prevent unsheltered homelessness.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct:

1. The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, the Department of Public Social Services, the Chief Executive Office Homeless Initiative, Department of Health Services Housing for Health, and, once established, the new County department on homelessness, to report back in writing twice a year with an assessment of the capacity of CalWORKs Homeless Programs and the Family Coordinated Entry System to meet the demand for support of families experiencing homelessness, including system utilization data, language access, resource

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gaps, immigration status concerns, and funding scenarios to address unmet needs.

2. The Chief Executive Office and the Department of Public Health to report back in writing in 90 days on proposed funding options to continue and potentially expand the Department of Public Health's Project H.O.P.E. and Abundant Birth Project.
3. The Department of Public Social Services, the Office of Immigrant Affairs, and the Department of Child and Family Services to report back in writing in 90 days on their existing staff training, and knowledge and information exchanges related to supporting pregnant people and new parents experiencing homelessness, and any additional training, or knowledge and information exchanges that may be needed, and how their staff are connecting these individuals to appropriate resources.

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