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MOTION BY SUPERVISORS LINDSEY P. HORVATH AND HILDA L. SOLIS

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Strengthening County Gender-Based Efforts, Services and Supports for Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence

Domestic violence (DV) or intimate partner violence (IPV), defined as any physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, or psychological aggression perpetrated by a family member or a current or former intimate partner, including spouses, boyfriends, girlfriends, ongoing sexual partners, and dating partners, continues to impact individuals and families throughout Los Angeles County. Nationally, more than 1 in 3 women experience sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime; about 16 million women said that they first experienced intimate partner violence before the age of 18[1]. According to the California Department of Justice, in 2023 Los Angeles County recorded 5.6 domestic violence-related calls for assistance per 1,000 adults aged 18-69[2]. The 2023 Los Angeles County Health Survey indicates that 15.3% of women in Los Angeles over the age of 18 and 6.7% of men reported ever being physically or

[1] https://www.cdc.gov/intimate-partner-violence/about/index.html
[2] https://www.kidsdata.org/export/pdf?cat=3

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sexually abused by an intimate partner[3] and the 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey reports that 7.8% of high school students in the Los Angeles Unified School District who had dated someone reported experiencing physical dating violence in the past year.[4] LGBTQ+ community members are also at disproportionate risk, with the most recent California Violence Experiences Survey (CalVEX) noting that transgender adults are twice as likely as cisgender adults to report a history of physical or sexual IPV[5].

Data from the County's Child Protection Hotline (Hotline) run by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) speaks to the connection between IPV/DV and the child welfare system. 72% of DCFS investigations with IPV/DV concern a child under age 5, with 38% of those involving children under the age of 1. 1 in 3 investigations involving IPV also included concerns of substance abuse and/or mental health concerns. This is true for children of any age. According to a 2021 report[6], 51.6% of 38,618 open DCFS cases the previous year had past or current concerns of domestic violence identified by DCFS caseworkers. The trauma of domestic violence and potential family separation, has significant health impacts for adult survivors and their children, and requires specialized supports and resources. DCFS has recognized this need, and through their Families Stronger Together-Los Angeles Program they offer linkage to community supports and preventative legal services to assist families, including those with DV concerns, before and during the DCFS investigation process.

[3] 2023 Los Angeles County Health Survey; Office of Health Assessment and Epidemiology, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.
[4] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 1991-2023 High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data. Available at http://yrbs-explorer.services.cdc.gov/.
[5] https://geh.sdsc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2023_CalVEX_Report_03.04.24.pdf
[6] https://pritzkercenter.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Pritzker-Domestic-Violence-Report-Updated-April-2025.pdf

In the past year, there have been multiple domestic violence-related murder-suicides in Los Angeles County involving intimate partners and children. Since March 2026, at least six apparent murder-suicides have been reported in the Third District alone, collectively resulting in the deaths of at least 15 people, including four children. In 2024 and 2025, at least 63 women were killed by someone suspected to be a current or former partner, family member, or partner of a family member, according to an *LA Times* analysis of medical examiner data. These deaths accounted for over 40% of the 156 women killed during that time[7]. As a County, we can and must do more.

This Board has acknowledged that IPV and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention must be prioritized and funded two positions in the Department of Public Health (DPH) to support these efforts. We allocated ongoing funding to support community-based organizations in their GBV prevention work and recently passed a motion transitioning the County's Domestic Violence Council into a new structure to allow for greater community membership, participation and accessibility. On July 7, 2026, this Board passed a motion[8] focused on strengthening domestic violence prevention efforts, particularly acts that involve gun owners and the death of multiple family members, including reinforced targeted outreach to men and boys. The resulting report back detailed the many efforts the County's Office of Violence Prevention (OVP), housed within the Department of Public Health (DPH), has led in this space, and offered several recommendations the Board could take to further strengthen the County's work.

Since it was established by the Board in 2019, OVP has done work in the DV/IPV space. In 2024, OVP formed a workgroup of domestic violence service providers, law

[7] https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2026-09-16/la-county-restraining-order-data-analysis
[8] https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/218606.pdf

enforcement agencies, City and County departments, community leaders, survivors, and other interested stakeholders to explore how to reduce domestic violence homicides by improving access to Domestic Violence Restraining Orders (DVROs) against those abusing their intimate partners. In a report issued on July 31, 2024, OVP shared a number of recommendations developed by the workgroup, including increasing legal aid, centralizing information, embedding a peer navigator model, improving data tracking, standardizing training, posting informational fliers, co-locating social services at self-help center in courthouses, extending Emergency Protection orders, providing information on legal rights upon DVRO filing, and standardizing notification of service.

These recommendations, most of which have not yet been implemented, were discussed in a recent *Los Angeles Times* article,[9] which reported that in 2025, LA County courts received almost 15,000 petitions for DVROs and dismissed almost 60% of them, due to procedural and service barriers. ~~delays from the survivor making the request.~~ This is nearly double the Statewide dismissal rate. For a DVRO to be enforceable and the hearing for a permanent order to be set, the alleged abuser must first be served with a temporary restraining order (TRO). The order can be served by law enforcement, a paid registered process server or a third party, such as a friend or family member. This step is critical-- of the cases with incomplete service in 2025, 70% were ultimately dismissed. The LA County Sheriff's Department (LASD) can serve restraining orders but, in 2025, LASD deputies were unsuccessful in locating targets of restraining orders almost half the time.

[9] https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2026-09-16/la-county-restraining-order-data-analysis

The County's DV/IPV work is not, and should not be, isolated to OVP. The County's Department of Business and Consumer Affairs (DCBA) operates the Self- Help Legal Access Center (SHLACs) Program, which provides in-person and remote self-help legal assistance at nine regional locations throughout the County. The most recent SHLAC report[10] from DCBA notes that restraining orders continue to be one of the top services they provide, accounting for 23% of their workload. Of the 49,092 individuals served by the SHLACs, 11,413 obtained or modified an enforceable court order and 10,423 experiencing mental or physical threats reported feeling safe from abuse and/or threats of harm as a result of the assistance received. DCBA's August 2025 report noted that 62% of all SHLAC's clients are women[11]. DCBA has repeatedly asked for and been denied additional funding to support the demand for the services provided by the County's nine SHLACs. These services, which support DV survivors at no cost, are often cited as a critical support that must be expanded.

We also know that DV and IPV are contributing factors to unstable housing and homelessness. The 2026 point-in-time Homeless Count found more than 5,690 people in the City of Los Angeles became homeless after fleeing domestic or intimate partner violence[12]. That number rose by more than 43% in a single year. The Count also found that over 29,400 people in Los Angeles County reported they had past DV/IVP experience, representing 47% of the homeless population over the age of 18[13]. Yet in the FY 26-27 Measure A budget, ~~County HSH~~ the County's Department of Homeless

[10] 1218019_2026-09-18SHLACBiannualWorkloadReportNo.34_rc.pdf
[11] DCBA-SHLAC-Report-August-2025.pdf
[12] https://www.lahsa.org/documents?id=10075-hc26-city-of-los-angeles-data-summary&_gl=1*17fxmyp*_gcl_au*MTQzNzcxMTk4Ni4xNzkwMTE5NTYy

[13] https://www.lahsa.org/documents?id=10076-hc26-coc-data-summary

Services and Housing (HSH) had only 45 beds of DV/IPV interim housing, 115 slots of Time Limited Subsidies, and zero units of permanent housing dedicated to this population.

Further complicating support for DV survivors, Los Angeles County does not currently have a single centralized hotline that serves as an intake for survivor services. Survivors must call individual providers one by one in an attempt to find the resources they need, many of which are extremely time sensitive. The LA Continuum of Care was awarded funding for a centralized hotline in 2024, with plans to begin the program in January 2025. However, delays from the Department of Housing and Urban Development have stalled the program's start. A provider was selected to lead this work; they have job descriptions and potential vendors identified to stand up the hotline as soon as the contract is executed but cannot do so without one-time start-up funding. A centralized hotline, paired with the County's funded Community Information Exchange, will transformi~~ng~~ the victim service provider network into a working system that reduces the time it takes survivors to secure critical life-saving resources.

Gender-based violence and human trafficking are interconnected forms of exploitation that can share underlying drivers, including economic insecurity, housing instability, and unequal access to resources and protections. Human trafficking, including sex and labor trafficking, can involve gender-based violence, and survivors may experience overlapping forms of abuse, coercion, and exploitation. Strengthening the County's response to gender-based violence presents an opportunity to improve coordination across existing systems and ensure trafficking survivors can access appropriate, survivor-centered services and supports.

The time has come for this Board to take bold action in this space. GBV and DV/IPV affect millions of Angelenos and result in real and significant harm, physically, emotionally, and mentally. The County must step up and lead in this space, ensuring that this work is prioritized at every level. We need to work together to identify new and underutilized funding streams, break down silos between various county departments, and work collaboratively as a County to better serve and support survivors and their families. We need to think creatively about how to build a better system to support survivors, to make access to services easier and more seamless. Our bureaucracy should not be a barrier to individuals getting the help they need, begin healing, and feeling seen, safe and secure.

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

1. The Chief Executive Officer to:
    a. Begin the process to add "Gender-Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence" as a Board-directed priority, using the definition of "Gender-Based Violence" previously approved by this Board. The CEO should submit a 15-day written report back with suggested language around the Board-directed priority for Board review.
    b. Report back in writing as a part of the FY 27-28 recommended budget with sources of ongoing funding for an additional amount of $2 million annually for a total of $5.1 million beginning in the FY 27-28 budget to fully fund the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs' (DCBA) Self Help Legal Access Centers (SHLACs). This ongoing funding will allow the SHLACs to provide additional legal assistance for those in need of applying for

restraining orders and other legal services by bringing on additional DV/IPV specialized providers. As part of the report back, provide a detailed breakdown of current funding sources for SHLACs, the types of legal services provided, and the proposed allocation of additional funding across court locations. DCBA should utilize caseload and service type data to ensure equitable distribution of resources - consistent with the DCBA biannual workload report for self-help legal access centers approved by the Board on May 3, 2016.

c. Report back in writing within 14 days with potential sources of one-time funding in the amount of $1.25 million that can be used immediately to stand up an LA County centralized DV/IPV hotline that would serve as an intake for survivor services. Potential sources of funding should include settlement funds and other one-time non-Net County Cost (NCC) funds.

d. Report back in writing as a part of the FY 27-28 recommended budget with sources of ongoing funding in the total amount of $3 million annually beginning in the FY 27-28 budget to fund the IPV/DV clinics co-located at County Courthouses to provide additional legal aid supports to survivors.

e. Submit a 60-day written report back on all County investments related to Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence. This should include federal, state, and local dollars. This report-back should include a comparison with the investments of the City of Los Angeles, including investments in the housing space.

2. Request the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department provide a verbal presentation to the Board no later than ~~November 24~~ December 1, 2026 on their current efforts, staffing and protocol related to serving Domestic Violence Restraining Orders (DVRO) and Temporary Restraining Orders (TROs). This presentation should also discuss plans to improve service outcomes and any additional resources needed.
3. DCBA in partnership with Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), Department of Mental Health (DMH), IPV/DV providers and existing Family Justice Centers to explore how to integrate additional social service supports within DCBA's Self Help Legal Access Center (SHLACs). A written progress report, including any challenges and/or required resources, should be submitted to the Board in 60 days. This report should also explore how the SHLACs can better connect with existing providers, courthouse clinics, and Family Justice Centers to ensure all available resources are leveraged and avoid creating duplicative systems.
4. The Office of Violence Prevention (OVP), housed within the Department of Public Health (DPH), to:
    a. Report back in 30 days in writing with an update on the County's existing GBV efforts and how they are supporting IPV/DV work throughout the County. This report should explore how current efforts could be improved, challenges, capacity and resource needs, including funding for direct legal services, and opportunities for expansion. This report should also identify opportunities to strengthen coordination between existing GBV efforts and

services for survivors of human trafficking, including sex and labor trafficking, and address gaps in access to survivor-centered services and supports;

b. Report back in writing in 60 days on recommendations for implementing a Peer Navigator model to support IPV/domestic violence survivors. These recommendations should be informed by domestic violence ~~advisory~~ advocacy programs, including the County's Domestic Violence Coalition, and Family Justice Centers. The report should include a discussion of any funding or capacity needs to launch the program along with an implementation plan and timeline. The report and recommendations should be informed by those with lived experience and domestic violence providers, along with additional key stakeholders, including those from the LGBTQ+ and underserved communities;

c. Report back in writing in 120 days with recommendations on how to better support survivors seeking civil protection restraining orders due to physical or attempted violence, stalking, a credible fear of violence, or a pattern of behavior that seriously alarms, annoys, or harasses and causes substantial emotional distress. This report back should be informed by legal service providers, advocates, and those with lived experience;

d~~c~~. Execute and administer a sole source contract with Downtown Women's Center (DWC); and execute further amendments as needed, upon review and approval by County Counsel, for the provision of consulting services for the implementation of the DV shelter referral component of the Countywide

Community Information Exchange (CIE), ~~formally~~ formerly CareConnect; in an amount not to exceed $462,300. The CIE platform will facilitate and improve access to domestic violence shelter referrals for survivors and their families;

ed. Report back in 120 days with recommendations on how survivors can receive additional support and guidance throughout the restraining order process, especially when service is unsuccessful or hearings are delayed. These recommendations should include actionable steps to strengthen communication and referral pathways between law enforcement, legal service providers, Family Justice Centers, and IPV/DV advocates to ensure that survivors are better equipped to navigate these challenges while maintaining appropriate safety and confidentiality protections. This report should also assess how and when protected individuals are notified of successful or unsuccessful service and identify opportunities for improved prompt, secure, and confidential notice. The recommendations should be informed by lived experts, IPV/DV advocacy providers, Family Justice Centers, law enforcement, and other relevant stakeholders; and

fe. In partnership with Probation, Department of Mental Health, County Counsel, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and all relevant County departments, report back to the Board in 120 days with recommendations to improve countywide identification and intervention to prevent domestic violence-related murders or murder-suicides. Recommendations should include opportunities to connect perpetrators to

violence-intervention programs earlier in the law enforcement process and strengthen coordination among IPV/domestic violence service providers, suicide prevention, behavioral health, law enforcement, courts, and other relevant systems. This should include any training, data-sharing, or policy changes needed to implement these recommendations.

WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct:

5. The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS):
    a. In partnership with OVP, and in collaboration with JCOD, DMH, HSH, DPSS, and LA Health Services (LAHS) ~~DHS~~, report back in 160 days on how the County may be able to leverage the Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) funding to support families, prevent maltreatment, and reduce system involvement. This report back should include a cost-benefit analysis examining whether the County should explore FFPSA as a possible source for reimbursement funds, and what would be required to ensure current providers and services qualify for this federal reimbursement.
    b. In collaboration with the Mandating Supporting Initiative and OVP, explore how DCFS can begin to offer and contract for targeted and effective IPV/domestic violence services to families involved with the child welfare system. These services should be provided to families free of charge, in a culturally competent manner, and offer specialized support and expertise for families with IPV/DV involvement. DCFS should detail how their plans to begin offering these services and mechanisms to bring on specialized

IPV/DV providers in a 120-day report back, and include possible funding sources, implementation timeline, and whether any existing contracts can be amended to include this specialized scope of work. This work should enhance any existing family supports currently offered by the Department.

6. All applicable County departments work with OVP, and with support from the Internal Services Department (ISD), to ensure that DVRO informational fliers and/or posters are printed and posted in all County facilities, particularly in women's or gender-neutral restrooms, and contracted agency bathrooms to increase access to information. OVP should report back to the Board in writing in 60 days on a plan, and if additional funding and/or resources are needed.
7. The Department of Homeless Services and Housing (HSH), in partnership with OVP and other relevant partners, to report back to the Board in writing in 60 days with an assessment of the funding and number of emergency beds available for people and their children or family members fleeing IPV/DV; the funding, beds, and subsidies available for stable housing; and the gap between these existing resources and the need. This report should also:
    a. Include feedback on how this population can be prioritized for existing homeless service response services and housing resources;
    b. Consider barriers survivors may face, such as family size, eligibility requirements, safety concerns, pets, transportation, and others, when assessing housing needs and developing recommendations. <u>This should include barriers uniquely faced by the LGBTQ+ community;</u> ~~and~~

c. Identify existing housing resources available to human trafficking survivors, including survivors of sex and labor trafficking, and assess gaps in access to emergency, transitional, and permanent housing for survivors who may not qualify for or be served by existing IPV-specific programs, and

d~~c~~. Provide a budget illustrating funding and resources necessary for the County to be able to provide immediate access to emergency housing for any person seeking to flee gender-based violence, using motel funds, existing site-based shelter, or other solution.

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